Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-208
Monday
28 October 1991

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-208 28 October 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Casstro Views Political, Economic Situation *[Havana TV]* 1
Casstro on Food Program, Production Plans *[Havana TV]* 8
Economic Importance Stressed *[Havana Radio]* 10
Suggarcane Workers Charged With Economic Crimes *[AFP]* 10
Casstro Assesses Role of National Media *[Havana TV]* 11
ANPP Amending Constitution, Electoral Law *[Havana Radio]* 12
Popular Vigilance Program Reduces Delinquency *[Havana TV]* 12
Canada Will Not Alter Political, Trade Links *[Havana TV]* 12

Dominican Republic

Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo Closes *[Hamburg DPA]* 13

Haiti

Prime Minister Seeks Talks Concerning Aristide *[AFP]* 13
Present Situation in Country Assessed *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13
Negotiating Delegation to OAS Reports to Senate *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 14
Government Releases Businessman, Singer *[Bonaire Radio]* 14

MEXICO

President on Economy, North-South Dialogue *[Paris LE MONDE 25 Oct]* 15
• Church Leaders Address Indian, Peasant Issues 16
• Quintero Arce Statements *[LA JORNADA 21 Sep]* 16
• Oaxaca's Coadjutor's Views *[LA JORNADA 22 Sep]* 17

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Trade Agreement Negotiation Difficulties Foreseen *[Hamburg DPA]* 19

El Salvador

Interview With FMLN Captain on Negotiations *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 19

Guatemala

Serrano on Peace Talks, Belize, Other Topics *[Guatemala TV]* 20

Panama

National Police Director Tenders Resignation *[ACAN]* 22
Text of Resignation Noted *[Panama City TV]* 22

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Provincial General Elections Reported as Normal *[TELAM]* 23
Metal Workers Union Plans Pro-Somisa Strike *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 25 Oct]* 23
Workers Accept New Offer *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 27 Oct]* 23
Menem on Space Activities for Peaceful Purposes *[TELAM]* 24
Government, Not Military, To Decide Promotions *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 27 Oct]* 24
Cavallo on Ownership of Mineral Deposits *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 24 Oct]* 25
Party Founder Withdraws From Active Leadership *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 23 Oct]* 25
Soviet Envoy Seeks Loan; Views Oil for Cuba *[CLARIN 24 Oct]* 25

Bolivia

U.S. Ambassador, Saavedra on Antinarcotics Fight *[La Paz TV]* 26
Army Expects U.S. Aid After Antidrug Operations *[PRESENCIA 15 Oct]* 26
Energy Minister Views Plans Before U.S. Trip *[La Paz TV]* 26
Italian Firm, Cordepaz Start Development Plan *[La Paz Radio]* 26
Iturralde Advocates 'Peaceful' Changes in Cuba *[Madrid EFE]* 27
Army Antidrug Operations for 1991 Conclude *[PRESENCIA 15 Oct]* 27
FELCN Gets New Regulations, Deputy Commander *[La Paz Radio]* 27
Coca Growers To Oppose Forced Eradication *[La Paz Radio]* 27

Brazil

Auction of Usiminas Shares Considered Successful *[Brasilia Radio]* 27
Infrastructure Minister Comments *[Brasilia Radio]* 28
Economist Comments on Auction *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 28
Demonstrations Against Auction *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 28
Further on Demonstrations *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 29
Collor Criticizes Businessmen for Dismissals *[Brasilia Radio]* 29
Economic Official Criticizes Collectivism *[Brasilia Radio]* 30
Funds Released To Support Coffee Harvests *[Brasilia Radio]* 30
Germany's Kohl Hopeful on Medium-Term Investment *[Brasilia Radio]* 30
Germany Releases $180 Million for Projects *[Brasilia Radio]* 31
Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Mercosur *[CLARIN 24 Oct]* 31
Economy Secretary Departs for Japanese Talks *[Brasilia Radio]* 32

Chile

Senator on U.S. Military Aid to Peru, Bolivia *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 19 Oct]* 32
Environment Agreement With U.S May Be Signed *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Companies Form Joint Ventures in Poland *[EL MERCURIO 16 Oct]* 33
Center To Promote Foreign Investments Started *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Amendment Recognizing Indian Nations Signed *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 9 Oct]* 34
MIR Members Join Arrate's Socialist Party *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Newly Created Party To Join Opposition *[EL MERCURIO 11 Oct]* 34
Energy Minister Comments on Hydroelectric Plant *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Economic Activity Monthly Index Figures Reported *[EL MERCURIO 18 Oct]* 35

Colombia

Reportage on Legislative Election Activities 35
Bomb Attacks in Medellin *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 35
Further on Bomb Explosions *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 35
Deaths in Vehicle Ambush *[AFP]* 35
Government Reports 'Complete Calm' *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 36
Legislative Elections End *[AFP]* 36

Commander Interviewed on Recent FARC Attack *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 36
Internal Struggle in Medellin Cartel Reported *[EL TIEMPO 23 Oct]* 37
Banking Sector Rejects Money Laundering Charges *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 37

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Meets Russian Delegation *[ABC COLOR 26 Oct]* 38
Meets With German Chancellor Kohl *[ULTIMA HORA 23 Oct]* 38

Peru

Vice President on Recall of Panamanian Official *[Madrid EFE]* 38
Envoy Travels to Panama To Explain *[Lima TV]* 39
Ecuador 'Flooded' Border With Inaccurate Texts *[Lima TV]* 39
Polish Preferences for Exports Reinstated *[Madrid EFE]* 39
Army Raids Settlement, Confiscates Arsenal *[Lima TV]* 39
Shining Path Rebels Killed, Peasants Rescued *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 40
Shining Path Reportedly Kills Two Officials *[Mexico City NOTIMEX 24 Oct]* 40
Roundup of Terrorist Activities Reported *[EXPRESO 16 Oct, etc]* 40

Uruguay

Economy Minister Confirms IMF Director's Visit *[Montevideo Radio]* 41
Government Prepares Bidding for Gas Pipeline *[Montevideo Radio]* 41
Resumption of Mutton Sales to Iraq Sought *[Madrid EFE]* 41
New Political Party Created, Seeks Recognition *[BUSQUEDA 17 Oct]* 42

Guyana

OAS, Caricom Discuss Haiti Sanctions *[CANA]* 42
Carter Center Notes 'Remarkable' Progress *[CANA]* 42

Cuba

Castro Views Political, Economic Situation

FL2510212691 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0152 GMT 25 Oct 91

[News conference given by President Fidel Castro with unidentified reporters in Cozumel, Mexico, on 23 October—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, this is a compound question. First, the direct election of deputies to the National Assembly was approved at the [Fourth Communist Party of Cuba] Congress. What would be the agency that would ratify these elections? What electoral agency? Moreover, do you conceive of the possibility that in these elections the Communist Party of Cuba would lose its majority in the Assembly, and if this happened, what would be your position? That is the first part of my question. And the second part...

[Castro, interrupting] Ah, is this a compound question or what? It is a treatise. What is the second part?

[Reporter] The second part is: It has been said that as a result of the congress...

[Castro, interrupting] If you want to put it that way.

[Reporter] A very profound restructuring of the state in Cuba is going to be carried out, a very profound restructuring that would have to do with the division between the state and the party, and would also have to do with the appointment of a head of government, and you would then become the head of state. What can you tell us about this?

[Castro] You have asked about five questions, right? If the others agree, I can try to answer. I think there is great ignorance about our current electoral system. No one is familiar with it. It was approved in 1976 after a plebiscite in which more than 97 percent of the population participated. On that occasion, we made great efforts to establish new ways of selecting candidates and electing them. If these ways were not the same as those in any other socialist country, they were also not the same as those in the capitalist countries, or semi-capitalist countries, or would-be capitalist countries.

We established the principle that it is the people who directly nominate candidates. We divided the country into electoral districts in which the residents, meeting in assemblies—which I believe were much more democratic than the famous Greek ones where neither the slaves nor those citizens outside the law, who were the vast majority, could vote... [rephrases] In our assemblies, the residents of the districts met. There might be eight assemblies, or 10 or 12, depending on the size of the district. Each of them nominated their candidates. There was a maximum. There could not be more than eight or less than two. These residents who were elected... [corrects himself] were nominated, ran for election. If none got more than 50 percent [of the votes], the election had to be redone. In my district, for example, I almost always had to go vote two Sundays in a row, because no one person had obtained more than 50 percent.

That was our system. That is, the party did not nominate the delegates, but rather the population did directly. Those delegates made up the municipal assemblies. Depending on the size of the municipality, there could be 80, 200, or 300 delegates. They elected the president of the municipality, who had to be a district delegate. These in turn elected the delegates to the provincial assembly. Our country is not a federal state. It never was; it does not have those traditions, but in spite of everything, the district delegates elected the provincial delegates. The district delegates also elected the delegates... [corrects himself] the deputies to the National Assembly, which is the highest state authority in our country.

But, although the district delegates were directly elected and nominated, this was not the case with the provincial delegates, or the national ones. What we have established that is new, based on those ideas of 1976—which I think were very right—is that now the provincial delegates will also have to be elected directly, and the deputies to the National Assembly will have to be elected directly. The key problem is who nominates the candidates. You know that throughout the world, as known up to now, the parties and the party members nominate. The people do not nominate candidates. We have established a procedure through which the residents nominate, the people nominate, and not the party.

Now to move to the election of the provincial deputies... [corrects himself] the provincial delegates, and the national deputies. The same district delegates are the ones who will nominate the delegates to the municipal... [corrects himself] provincial assemblies. The same district delegates will nominate the deputies to the National Assembly. This does not exist anywhere else, and I think it is an extraordinary step forward. The party does not nominate candidates, not even under our current system. The party will have to ensure that the principles and standards are abided by, but it will not nominate candidates.

So the people are the ones who directly nominate candidates, and the delegates of the people are the ones who nominate. Before, the delegates nominated and elected people. Now, they will nominate but not elect people. They will nominate the candidates, but the voters will elect both the provincial delegates and the national deputies directly. The national deputies are the members of the National Assembly, and number about 500, more or less. The number increases as the population increases. The other branches of the state emanate from the National Assembly.

There are electoral commissions that are organized to prepare for this whole process. Elections are complicated; you know this very well. This is well known everywhere. There are all the ballots, all the candidates,

all the vote counts, and everything. We have the agencies that will take care of that. The law... [rephrases] Because the congress did not establish this. The congress could establish its statutes, but it cannot dictate a law to the National Assembly. The congress recommended a policy, presents an argument, presents some principles, and the National Assembly has to put these principles into practice.

Of course, in our country, fraud is something that is not even thought of. In the 30 years of the revolution, it is something that... [rephrases] I do not know who would ever think of carrying out fraud, because this clashes so much with our people's dignity, decency, and ethics that it would never enter anyone's head. So here there will not be any kind of problem concerning the mechanisms and institutions that take care of organizing this whole part of the electoral process and the vote counts. This will have to be established by the law.

Question number three, that if we lose... [rephrases] Simply, if the revolution does not have the majority of the population, it loses. But before, even now, if the revolution gets a minority of the votes, the delegates, the residents select their candidates and elect them. And now the residents will select their candidates and elect them, with this step forward. In our opinion it is a step forward, and we did not take it as a concession to anyone, but rather because of our intention to improve and democratize our society more and more. But this assumes a majority of the people. If the majority of the people are not behind the revolution, the revolution could lose power.

This does not mean that if the revolution loses power it will surrender, everyone will hang themselves, or everyone will commit suicide. We do not have plans for that, but I can tell you that we are revolutionaries, we are principled people, and we have always acted in accordance with this. We will always act in accordance with this. We could have the phenomenon of a revolution in the minority, and then we will have to see how we can defend the revolution from a minority position while respecting the laws, respecting the principles, and respecting the results. No one should have any doubt about this.

About the very profound restructuring, I do not know what that refers to. We have been making changes. Our state works and works well. It works efficiently. We produce almost 8 million tons of sugar. We are the country in the world that with the fewest square kilometers in area produces more food per capita for the world. We produce calories for 40 million people in the world. Did you know that? I doubt that even the Argentines, who produce a lot of grain and meat, produce as many calories per capita as Cuba, in spite of the fact that Argentina has 60 times the national territory of Cuba. We have an organized country, an organized state, an organized people who work. In the midst of very difficult conditions, as there were in 1990, we produced a sugar harvest of 7.6 million tons of sugar, in spite of adverse climatic conditions and other factors. Our country is a well-organized country; it works and produces. Our state is well organized.

We did not talk at the congress about profound restructuring of the kind you have mentioned. We did not make a statement about this. The Central Committee has the power to make decisions in this regard. We will have to see what changes require more profound constitutional reforms and what kind of processes they would involve. But as for me personally, I can tell you that I am not a man who clings to office at all. I fulfill my duties. I consider myself a slave to duty and work. I will do what I can as long as I can and as long as our people want me to or want my contribution. But I am not a man who clings to honors and posts. I always keep in mind one of Marti's thoughts, which is that all the glory in the world will fit into a kernel of corn. Therefore, any kind of structural changes that may be made, that give me a post or that give me another post, would not concern me at all, nor was this a subject of discussion at the congress.

[Reporter] Mr. President, why do you think that communism failed in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, your former associates?

[Castro] It is as if I had an academy of science and history, and at least 700 researchers to make an in-depth analysis of all the problems that occurred there. It is as if I asked why capitalism failed in Latin America; it is as if I asked you why capitalism failed in China; or if I asked why capitalism failed in Africa; or if I asked why capitalism failed in Bangladesh; or if I asked why capitalism failed in hundreds of countries in the Third World that are dying of hunger and where 40,000 children die every day. It is a difficult question to answer, but I can tell you that failures are also relative. It can be explained a little better in Eastern Europe because socialism arrived there from outside. It was not an indigenous creation. But in China, socialism was an indigenous creation, and it has been very successful, extraordinarily successful. Since socialism arrived in China, the famines have ended; the great calamities have ended. This year, in fact, when there was extensive flooding, this would have meant millions and millions dying from hunger. And with 100 million hectares of land, China has worked the miracle of feeding and clothing and making shoes for 1.14 billion inhabitants.

In the USSR, no one has done these studies, and I think that these studies should be done. The last word has not yet been spoken in the USSR, because right now in the USSR there is neither capitalism nor socialism. Neither of the two. Neither a market economy nor a planned economy. Now, I find it difficult to accept the idea that a social system like the one in the USSR has failed. When that country, after a bloody war, was invaded, was occupied, was reduced to an insignificant area, blockaded by everyone, forced to build socialism in a single country, industrialized the country which was destroyed again within 20 years, that lost 20 million people, in only 20 years they rebuilt the country, and it became a

country that produced 630 million tons of oil, 700 billion cubic meters of natural gas, thousands and thousands and tens of thousands of kilometers of oil pipelines and water pipelines, a country that has produced more than 150 million tons of steel, more than 140 million tons of cement, is one of the top fertilizer producers in the world, reached levels of production of wood pulp, and electricity that were enormous, among the highest in the world, it is difficult to believe that the social system has failed.

I do not know if that country [words indistinct] today a highly developed country if it had ended in the czar's hands; or perhaps it would be like Afghanistan and many other Third World countries. Therefore, neither capitalism or socialism can claim victory. Neither have been successful. Capitalism has been successful in some places. Socialism has been successful elsewhere. We are extraordinarily satisfied with what socialism has done in our country. Among other things, it has reduced the infant mortality rate to 10.7 for every 1,000 live births in spite of the Yankee embargo. There are many rates like this. It would be very difficult... [rephrases] When I think that in addition we have raised the life expectancy rate to more than 75 years, and we have a country without beggars, hungry people, unemployed people, even today, in spite of the special period, it would be very difficult for me to think that socialism has failed in our country.

If you look at the picture in Latin America, where capitalism has existed for hundreds of years, then you would have to ask what successes capitalism has had, and if capitalism has not failed. If we take into account that there are 4 billion people living in the Third World, full of hunger, disease, illiteracy, it would be very difficult to say that colonialism, capitalism, and neocolonialism have been successful. I think that the last word of history have yet to be spoken.

[Reporter] Yes, Commander Castro, what are the chances for a rapprochement or understanding between Cuba and the United States? What would you consider to be a good signal from the United States towards Cuba; and likewise, what would be a good signal from Cuba towards the United States?

[Castro] I see very few chances right now for an improvement in relations, because right now the U.S. Government considers itself the master of the world, the leader of a unipolar world. They feel great hate for our country and our people. They are experiencing a great triumphalist euphoria. They think the Cuban revolution has no future after everything that has happened in the socialist bloc, and they do not feel in the least like doing anything to improve relations between Cuba and the United States. On the contrary; they want Cuba to collapse. They will not be satisfied with anything less than the head of the revolution and the revolutionaries, and they do not have any idea about giving up the least chance that the revolution will be destroyed. That is what can be observed of the thinking of the leaders of that country, to judge by their speeches.

An unequivocal signal would be the unconditional lifting of the economic embargo against Cuba, which has now lasted for more than 30 years; the return of the occupied territory of the Guantanamo Naval Base; the end to the aggressions, threats, and hostilities against Cuba. That would be a good signal.

It is difficult to ask us to give signals. We do not have an embargo against the United States. We do not occupy a single piece of American territory. We do not feel hostility and hate for the North American people nor for the United States. So, there is no equivalency in our circumstances. In exchange for all this I have mentioned, we can offer them our friendship, consideration, and respect, which is what we feel towards other nations of the world. There is no hate for U.S. citizens in this country, and they know this very well. There is no jingoism in Cuba. Jingoism is different from patriotism, because patriotism is based on awareness. Jingoism is based on contempt and the allergy of one country for another. We have educated our populace in internationalist feelings and friendship with all nations. North American visitors can observe the respect and consideration with which they are treated, just as all visitors to our country are treated.

[Reporter] Mr. Commander, I would like to ask you, first: If Cuba needs oil why has it not asked Mexico or the Group of Three for it; and what is your responsibility and that of the Cuban revolution with respect to the Latin American left, now that there have been changes in Eastern Europe and the USSR; and what does the membership of religious believers in the Communist Party of Cuba mean?

[Castro] Well, the Soviet Union has supplied us with oil for more than 30 years. They have supplied it for more than 30 years, and we have not needed oil from another source. We have been certain of receiving this oil, and in addition we have received preferential prices for our sugar. There are various prices for sugar. There is dumping on the international market. That is where they dump the sugar, and the price is far below the production cost. There are the agreed-on prices, like the Lome Convention prices between Europe and the countries that supply oil, that sell it. There are the prices the United States pays to the few suppliers it still has, because the United States used to be a major importer and now it imports almost none.

There are these agreed-on, preferential prices, like the ones we received from the socialist community and the Soviet Union. Oil is one of the products whose prices have risen the most. Oil is one of the products that gets the highest prices in the world. Oil prices have absolutely nothing to do with production costs. That is the truth. Oil prices shot up because of those wars, the wars in the seventies. OPEC oil prices are regulated monopoly prices. Production is increased or decreased depending on the market, the demand. This is easy to do with oil; it is very difficult to do with other kinds of products.

When the revolution triumphed, we needed 4 million tons. Oil cost 2 pesos per barrel. At that time, with 1 ton of sugar you could buy at least 7 tons of oil. If we were still in that time, we would not have great problems. We would say: Well, gentlemen, 1 million tons of oil or the equivalent of 2 tons of sugar—one or 2 tons of oil. But now, right now, with 1 ton of sugar—and you have to plant it, cultivate it, harvest it, ship it; it has a very high labor cost—you can now buy barely 1.3 or 1.4 tons of oil on the world market. So, although Cuba has increased significantly its sugar production, all its sugar, at the price on the world dumping market, would not be enough to buy the oil, only the oil, that the country needs.

Bear these circumstances in mind. For our country it was a great economic achievement—which we have been proposing precisely for the Third World resources—to receive fair prices for our sugar. The Soviets sold us oil in accordance with world market prices, which rose a lot, but they paid much higher prices for our sugar. These prices were below the production costs in the Soviet Union, but much higher than those on the world market. In spite of this, most of our exports to the USSR went to buy oil, in spite of this.

Now, how much has our country's consumption increased with economic and social development? It has increased to 13 million tons. This year we had to impose very harsh restrictions because we received 3 million tons less—3.3 more or less—in 1990. This forced us to impose harsh restrictions by the end of last year. The agreement for 1991 was for 10 million. This has been fulfilled fairly well, although a deficit has occurred in recent weeks and is beginning to cause us some problems. But up to now we have followed the same trade policy as we have for 30 years, up to this year, 1991, and we have received oil from the Soviet Union. We have not needed to find other sources of oil.

That is not easy, either, because to buy oil you also need the means to pay for it, and to pay for it we need a price for sugar. You would have to see how much sugar there would be on the world market then, what price would it get, what price would oil get, and what chance we would have of buying it. That is why we have studied all the variations. We produce some oil, a few hundred thousand [tons]; we could reach 1 million tons. But we have studied all the variations: If we have 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2, 1 or 0 [tons of oil]. That is our duty, because we want to overcome these problems.

Are we going to sit down and cry like Mary Magdalene? Pardon me for mentioning Mary Magdalene, who was a woman who cried from emotion. She did not cry out of anger or cowardice. Are we going to sit down and cry out of anger or cowardice or emotion? We are not even going to cry from emotion. However emotional we may be, we try to be realists. We are realistic revolutionaries, and we will face whatever problems there may be.

That is why we have studied all the possible variations, but the policy we have followed is basically one of restrictions and not of searching for new sources. Because for this, we would have to solve the problem of financing, in the first place: sugar prices, sugar markets, etc. For now, we are maintaining trade with the Soviet Union, or with the republics of the Soviet Union, and we will maintain this trade as far as possible. It will not be due to us if this trade is suspended, because they need nickel, sugar, citrus fruit, and Cuban products. We are developing new and very important areas: biotechnology, biomedicine, the pharmaceutics industry, and advanced medical equipment.

We are moving forward in a number of fields, within our strained circumstances: our tourism program, our food program, which is the number one priority. We are domesticating oxen, manufacturing bicycles, inventing everything that must be invented, anything rather than yielding and surrendering. That is why we have not started any negotiations of the kind that you are asking me about.

About our role with the left now that what was called the socialist bloc has disappeared: Our obligation, I think our first duty, is to stand firm as revolutionaries, patriots, and socialists; to never renounce our banners, never renounce our ideas. If there are not many who are confronting that super-powerful empire, at least there will be some of us in this world who are capable of confronting it. Ideas are more important than acts. They are more important than wars; they are more important than battles. Because many battles have been lost, but the ideas have won out at the end. Many wars have been lost, but the ideas have won out. Many revolutions have been lost, and at the end the revolutions have won out. That is why for us, the value of ideas cannot be measured. We are ready to fight, to confront that unipolar world, that hegemony. We are determined never to lower our flags, ever. We are ready to repeat, if necessary, the history of the Christians in the catacombs of Rome, to give an example, rather than giving up our principles, rather than renouncing our principles.

I think this is the best service we can do for the Latin American left, the progressive men, the democratic men, the men who dream of a better world and not a world dominated by the Yankees for 1,000 years. If sometimes one must endure a bossy Yankee—and there are some bossy Yankees, just as there are very fine, very decent, very elegant ones—but if sometimes one must endure a bossy Yankee—and who knows this better than the Mexicans?—it is terrible.

Just imagine what it would be like to deal with a state, with the most powerful empire on this earth, armed to its teeth, with all kinds of weapons, nuclear and non-nuclear weapons, all sophisticated weapons. They will give orders only to those who are willing to receive orders. Those who want to be slaves, will be slaves; but no one will ever be able to give orders to someone who does not want to receive them. No one will ever make a slave of

someone who does not want to be a slave. I believe that these feelings, these ideas, today represent our humble contribution to the just causes of the people.

Have I left something out? On the believers?

I believe that the matter of the believers was a necessary and essential rectification. Throughout the history of the international revolutionary movement, the exclusion of believers from the party was never established. In the case of Cuba, it was due to the unusual conflicts that emerged between the Catholic hierarchy and the revolution during the early years. Unfortunately, the Catholic religion was the religion of the rich.

I went to Catholic schools because my parents had the money to pay for my education in that kind of school where, as a rule, there were no blacks or poor people. Also, there were no churches in the rural areas. That is not the situation in Latin America and other countries; I know this. I am talking about the situation in Cuba. But, there were many other churches in Cuba. There were many Catholics who always supported the revolution. However, when the situation emerged we chose not to create a conflict in the hearts of our fellow countrymen. We did not want them to feel forced to choose between being loyal and obedient to the party or being loyal and obey to the church. The radical nature of the revolution during those early years may have influenced this. There was a certain puritanism, a certain Jacobinism. But the fact is that when the party was making its first efforts to organize, it decided that every aspect of the party's political, economic, and philosophical doctrine had to be adopted.

As the years went by we were able to see that there were many believers who were magnificent revolutionaries, internationalists, and hard-working patriots. They met all the requirements needed to be good communists, even if they were materialists, dialectic, or believers, despite their religious belief. Many churches in Cuba always maintained excellent relations with the revolution and there was never the slightest conflict. Furthermore, throughout Latin America, millions of people, believers, were expressing their solidarity with the Cuban revolution and supporting the Cuban people. We were given prove of this during many contacts with the people. In 1973 I held a lengthy meeting in Chile with a group of priests for socialism. Several religious denominations were represented in that group. There were also meetings in Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Cuba. We had a long time to think and meditate on this and we reached the conclusion that it was not fair, first of all, for a person to be denied membership to the party because of his religious beliefs, especially in light of the fact that we only had one party. We reached the conclusion that it had to be everyone's party. We reached the conclusion that it was discriminatory, and we also reached the conclusion that it was necessary to overcome that phase. We have been talking about this for some time now; during those meetings I mentioned.

During a trip to Brazil last year, a year and a half ago, I met with a very large religious community in Sao Paolo. These were very democratic, progressive, and very revolutionary people, good friends of the Cuban revolution. When I returned to Cuba I explained, in detail, the contradiction of having so many noble and good people supporting the revolution and the fact that the party was not admitting people to its ranks because of their religious beliefs. A political and ideological struggle, battle, was begun. It was necessary to broach this matter in depth. It was necessary to talk about this and despite all this, it was not easy. We found that the attitude of some of our members was very hard and radical, very intransigent. It was difficult for them to imagine a communist in the party who was also a believer, even though this believer agreed with the party's plan, in doing all that a communist militant does, in giving his life for the cause of the revolution. Despite all this, it was still necessary to discuss the matter, especially with the younger members of the party. It was not an easy change to make in the party statutes. However, after a lengthy process—the whole process that preceded the congress during which hundreds of thousands of meetings were held—this issue was resolved and it was brought before the congress with almost unanimous approval. It was not unanimous, because when the delegates discussed the congress documents during the provincial assemblies, there were many members who brought this matter up. However, at the congress we reached a broad consensus and the decision was made.

I believe it was a necessary rectification and a just rectification. That is how we viewed this issue of believers becoming party members.

[Reporter] I would like to ask you something. Upon his arrival this morning, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said that this was an excellent opportunity for Cuba to join Latin America. My question is: Was this truly a good opportunity? Specifically, what is Cuba going to do to join the Latin American world? For example, will this become the Group of Four?

[Castro] Another group? [laughter] It is undoubtedly a very high honor for us to aspire to becoming members of the Group of Four. There will be no such Group of Four. We will have all the groups the main Latin American leaders wish to form to carry out various tasks, reach various goals. My status, at this moment, and I feel very honored by it, is one of guest of the Group of Three. I must stress that the Mexican president is the host and he issues the invitations. He invited the other two presidents and with their approval, he invited me to the meeting. As I have already said, I feel very honored.

Even when CEMA existed, we, who are people of, how should I put it, patriotic feelings, Latin American feelings, feelings of love for the region and the world with whom we share the same culture, language, and other similar things, always felt that Latin America and the Caribbean were our natural surroundings for integration. We always felt that we were part of CEMA beacuse of the

situation we were experiencing. However, we always felt that, even though ways of integration and plans could be developed with CEMA, our future and shared homeland was with Latin America. This is not the first time I say this. On various occasions and during many news conference I have said it. We always felt this was our future. Perhaps we thought that we would have to wait until everyone became a socialist, so something like this integration could take place.

Today we know much about this. Very interesting integration processes have taken place throughout the world. There came a time when we felt that even though we were socialists, we were the best suited country for integration in Latin America. What is integration? Abolishment of a customs tariff? There are no customs tariffs in Cuba. We deal directly with the states, enterprises, state enterprises, or private enterprises. Jingoism, narrow-minded nationalism? Fortunately, Cuba never experienced those problems. We are a broad-minded country; a country educated in Marti's thoughts, an internationalist country, a country that during the years of the revolution has received a great internationalist education. We are a country with strong ties with Latin America even though there was a time when we were blockaded by everyone, except Mexico. Relations with everyone had been broken off, except with Mexico. With Mexico we maintained our friendship and contact. There continued to be an exchange among artists, writers, scientists, labor leaders, peasant leaders, and political leaders. Even during those difficult years we maintained ties with the Latin Americans.

That situation has changed so much that only in a few exceptions, all countries have relations with us. If these are not diplomatic relations, they are consular relations. Those countries that do not have diplomatic or consular relations with us, will have certain informal, but friendly, relations. In other words, the situation of the relations between Cuba and Latin America have changed greatly.

Now that we are involved in the practical tasks, we have seen that there are many possibilities for integration. We must take into consideration the recently concluded Guadalajara Conference. One of the main issues broached during that conference was the integration of Latin America. At that time we expressed our willingness to integrate ourselves with Latin America. To integrate economically as well as politically. If someday Latin America should decide to unite into one great common nation, which was the dream of the liberators, Bolivar's dream, Morelos' dream, Hidalgo's dream, San Martin, Sucre, O'Higgins' dream, everyone's dream to a greater or lesser degree... [changes thought] They had an extraordinary vision. They were able to see what the relations between the continent and the northern colossus would be like. And Bolivar said it long before Marti did. He said that they would plague us with misery in the name of freedom. The liberators struggled for and dedicated their whole lives to make the dream come true. Back then there were no radios, airplanes, trains, or cars. They traveled this huge hemisphere preaching unity. The day of unity is drawing near as there is a need for survival. It is not a only a dream, a wish, something sentimental. We either unite or we will end up being nothing. We either integrate or they will disintegrate us. We either unite and develop as a great community of nations, or they will absorb us. We run the risk of being absorbed, of being invaded even without the use of weapons, of being invaded by their finances, technology, and markets. It is a big risk to take. That is why we are staunch supporters of that unity and we are willing to integrate as the situation allows and if the Latin Americans wish to unite. We clearly stated that, regarding Latin America, and our economic ties with Latin America, Latin American investments in Cuba, and Cuban investments in Latin America, that we are willing to go farther than with any other region of the world.

Nevertheless, in the exceptional circumstances in which we find ourselves, and not starting now but for some time, our country has been opening its doors to foreign investment. Because there is an imperious and vital need for capital, because capital, technology, and markets are needed for development. Yes, if we had someone who gave us all the technology, all the capital, and all the markets, we could have chemically pure and exclusive property of the 11 million Cuban citizens. But those are imaginary ideas. They are not real. With great realism we have been opening the possibilities, and there have really been a lot of offers. There are a variety of methods of economic partnership with Cuba. Of course, I do not mean that Cuba is putting the country at the disposal of the transnational companies. All this development with the participation of foreign capital must be under the direction of the revolution and the revolutionary government, and in line with the objectives of socialism.

Now, what has happened with the first investors, who are obtaining excellent profits, great facilities? Sometimes within three years, three and a half years, they recoup their capital. In 10 years they triple it, but we also recoup our capital in three years or three and a half year. Or we triple it in 10 years. They have found an excellent... [rephrases] They have found trained people with a good educational level, capable of discipline when there is organization, experience, rigorousness, and the relations of our business partners with our workers are excellent. Their relations with the members of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Union of Young Communists are excellent.

They have been able to see how the facilities for repatriating capital work. They are automatic. They are working. That is one of the possibilities. But we have been opening our doors. If a factory closes because it lacks raw materials, and it has the machinery and the labor force, we should not allow that factory (?to close). We immediately analyze and we often have offers for raw materials or for a partnership in the factory or the marketing of the factory's products, of agriculture or industry, to obtain the raw materials, and we make mutually beneficial arrangements. That is why we have opened up a lot in this field.

Sometimes they propose a deal to us. We think about it again; and perhaps if someone from somewhere else has proposed it, we would think it over a lot, but if someone from Latin America proposes it, and in accordance with our views and ideas on Latin American integration, we will agree to it. I should say that I also think that the most varied social situations can fit into a united Latin America. Because even in a united Latin America, there will not be two countries that are exactly alike. Some will have higher living standards; some lower. Some will have greater social services than others.

So we do not see our social system as being incompatible with the economic and even political integration of Latin America. Because if they tell us: Tomorrow there will be a federation. It was agreed that everyone could join. Do you want to join? We will join, and we will be ready to analyze and discuss legislation, laws, things, everything that concerns that kind of unity. Because in today's world there are all kinds of unity. European unity is one kind; it is advancing slowly. I think the Soviets want to have another kind of community. The Japanese have another kind over there. What will our Latin American unity be like? No one can say. But we can say that we are absolutely sure that we fit into that great Latin American community.

[Reporter] Commander, I would only like you to answer two things. One, is there any interest on the part of your government in establishing a dialogue with the United States; and two, why have you not asked that your country be included, at this time of crisis, in the San Jose Pact because of the preferential conditions for supplying [oil] that are granted to the member countries? Just those two questions, Commander.

[Castro] If we were to say that we are interested in talking with the United States, the result would be that tomorrow the State Department would issue a statement saying that they have no interest and will never speak to Castro, and poor Castro would be shown pitifully asking the U.S. Administration to talk to Cuba. The most we can say is that we have never objected to discussing our differences with the United States. We have never objected to negotiating those differences. That is what I can say on this.

About the San Jose Pact, I already explained before how we were solving that problem. We should continue to struggle to solve the problem as we are solving it up to now, because for us it is the only solution. This involves a problem about markets for our products. There would be a problem about prices. There would be a number of factors that... [rephrases] Participation in this pact would not solve our problem. I do not say that this pact has no value. I think it is a valuable, useful, and generous pact on the part of Mexico and Venezuela. It provides considerable aid to certain countries.

But they are not in the same circumstances as Cuba. There are Central American countries that have hydraulic power, water. They consume little oil for electricity. Cuba does not have that hydraulic power. In Cuba, all the electricity must be produced from oil. There is very little from water. In the eastern region there are some areas we are studying. We would have to make costly investments and they would take time. In Cuba we use water primarily for irrigation. We do not have great falls. The island is long and narrow. It does not have the rivers you have, rivers like in Central America, Brazil, Argentina, or others.

We do not have hydraulic power. Everything is from oil. In our country, with our social development, more than 90 percent of the population has electricity. There are very high levels of hospital beds and education, all of which require the use of electricity. Economic development: production of 4 million tons of cement requires oil. The sugar industry consumes the least oil, because the sugar industry produces bagasse. We produce bagasse equivalent to 4 million tons of oil, but it is used mainly for meeting the needs of the sugar mills. The surplus is used to produce pulp, wood, and other things.

So our fuel needs are very large, under normal conditions. It does not seem right to us... [rephrases] out of consideration and respect for these countries—Mexico, Venezuela—because they are carrying out different kinds of international projects, negotiating for peace in the region, doing many things, negotiating various kinds of agreements between countries. Out of consideration and respect for Mexico and Venezuela, we have not wanted to introduce this element into our talks with them. Not a single time in my talks with Salinas or Carlos Andres Perez have I mentioned the word "oil," nor have we requested a single drop of oil. That is the policy we have followed, thinking, beating our brains, imagining how we are going to face the problems, how we are going to solve them.

We have confidence that we will solve our problems. What no one can be sure about is the level of sacrifices that we will have to make. That is the great unknown. We know the dangers that threaten us, the sacrifices that await us, but we also know the excellent things we are doing. Because we are producing things with our intelligence. We have tens of thousands of scientists at work. It was impressive to listen to those scientists in that congress that was just held. Their talent, their ability to express themselves, and their potential were impressive. They have great potential.

We have tens of thousands of scientists at work. We even mix a little water with diesel fuel, and we invent all kinds of things to conserve fuel. We have machines that work with wood. I said that we have domesticated 100,000 oxen and we are domesticating 100,000 more. We have produced fertilizers through biological means, antibiotics through biological means. We are applying and turning to science in all areas, not only for the food program and the country's development but to confront these problems.

Fuel is the most difficult problem. Without discussion, it is the most difficult. But out of a basic sense of consideration for my hosts, who invited me to this country and have invited me to Venezuela on other occasions, I have never said a single word about oil. That has been our policy.

[Unidentified speaker] Thank you, Mr. President. You have been very kind.

Castro on Food Program, Production Plans

FL2610012891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by unidentified television correspondent at the (Liliana Dmitrovna) Horticultural Research Institute in Havana; on 24 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Castro] Do not ask so many questions. Say hello first. That is the first thing you should do.

[Correspondent] How are you doing? Can you tell us something of your trip to Mexico?

[Castro] It was good. It was a quick trip.
[Correspondent] Yes, it was a quick trip.

[Castro] We further strengthened our ties, exchanges, relations. This helps the whole process of rapprochement and integration with Latin America.
[Correspondent] No sooner have you returned from Mexico and you are already touring agricultural sites. What did you find?

[Castro] Yes, good things. A good work attitude, much better.
[Correspondent] And lots of water.

[Castro] Better organization than last year, many more ideas, better criteria, and, unfortunately, lots of rain that has slightly delayed planting.
[Correspondent] Commander, all eight Havana enterprises are behind in their planting?

[Castro] [Words indistinct] preparing the land.
[Correspondent] Is there a strategy to be implemented as soon as it stops raining.

[Castro] Well, before it stops raining. The comrades at this enterprise, because it is still raining here, will move their equipment somewhere else and work here or there, wherever they can work. They are using multiple-plows, oxen, yet they still need a little help from the weather. If the rains continue, no matter how much they run around, and gain time, and make progress, they cannot reach the necessary rhythm to have the lands ready in time. Yet, they feel optimistic, not pessimistic. They have readied a lot of land in spite of everything.
[Correspondent] I noticed in Nueva Paz that they are cutting and shoulder-carrying the plantain.

[Castro] On their shoulders. In most places oxen are used to carry the plantain. Some of those bunches are too big to be carried on the shoulders. Have you visited Rosseau Camp?
[Correspondent] Yes.

[Castro] Did you see the aerial micro-jet?
[Correspondent] Yes.

[Castro] And how big are the bunches?
[Correspondent] Gigantic.

[Castro] One man cannot carry one of those bunches. At least two men are needed to carry them.
[Correspondent] Besides, the workers at Rosseau had an excellent idea to make the boxes...

[Castro, interrupting] When do they start harvesting?
[Correspondent] In November.

[Castro] And they want to distribute the harvest themselves?
[Correspondent] Yes.

[Castro] This will ensure that the plantains arrive in good condition. If they put the plantains in one of those big trucks they will be bruised by the time they reach their destination.
[Correspondent] The harvesting...

[Castro, interrupting] I keep seeing you everywhere. Are you always assigned to report on agriculture in Havana?
[Correspondent] Yes, it is what I like the most.

[Castro] I am glad. How much time do they give you to tour the region? Do you do this everyday?
[Correspondent] No, because there is not enough gasoline.

[Castro] What a pity. Can you ask these people to lend you some of the gasoline they use for their tractors? Try to get yourself a diesel car? How many gallons of fuel do you use up on a trip?
[Correspondent] It depends. Sometimes they give me 30 liters and when I arrive at an enterprise the managers help me with some more.

[Castro] Thirty liters for a whole day?
[Correspondent] For a whole day.

[Castro] Where do you begin?
[Correspondent] Well, if I go to Nueva Paz, I tour the area and film several reports to take advantage of my 30 liters and then another day I go to Guira, or another site to see what is happening at every enterprise. Lately, the place I have visited the most is Brigada 30.

[Castro] How much time do they allocate for your reports on television?
[Correspondent] They really never cut the length of my reports. If I think that the information deserves 1.2 minutes, I do 1.2 minutes. If I think it deserves two minutes I do two minutes. I have never seen them cut me shorter.

[Castro] They should give you a little more fuel. Well, if they were to do this for you the other reporters would get mad at you. It is important that television feature all the people doing agrarian work in Havana. Many people work in this field. You can tour camps, talk with the workers. Television could be showing more agriculture. We are not asking for 11 reels of film on agriculture [words indistinct] with all the rest.

Would you prefer to visit the area at least three times a week rather than once a week?

[Correspondent] I would like to, because in the past I had the opportunity to go every day to a different enterprise. But now I cannot make it every day. The most I can do is come once a week.

[Castro] I will give you one of those [not further specified] cars. They consume less gas. What are you driving? A Lada?
[Correspondent] No. I drive that little minibus over there.

[Castro] In that crazy thing?
[Correspondent] Yes. [laughs]

[Castro] How much gasoline does it use?
[Correspondent] The driver is over here.
[Unidentified speaker] Commander, it uses a hell [de madre] of a lot.

[Castro] A hell of a lot? [laughter] You mean a grandmother.
[Correspondent] Commander, now that I have this opportunity to to talk with you I would like you to give me an answer to something that worries me.

It has always been said that summer is the worst time for planting. Did we manage, this year, to draft a planting plan so we may harvest vegetables year round?

[Castro] No, it was not possible. The only vegetable that grows all year, and the more rain the better, is plantain.
[Correspondent] But the plantain...

[Castro, interrupting] We have 300 caballerias with micro-jets and we plan to reach 650 caballerias. We are going to plant 500 caballerias of bananas with micro-jet, 145 caballerias of plantain with micro-jet, plus some caballerias of fruits. We are also planing to give or sell a plantain tree to everyone who has a patio in which to plant it. Plantain is the only year-round vegetable we can count on unless a hurricane hits us. We are also promoting large scale plantain production in Ciego de Avila, as a reserve, in case a hurricane wipes out Havana's plantain crop. This is the most reliable product because it does not require cold storage, and produces all year long.

Besides plantains we have yuca which has different periods. This year there is a winter crop of 250 caballerias of yuca that we can start to harvest in May, June, July, August, in those months...

[Correspondent, interrupting] But we will not have two crops this year?

[Castro] This year we are planing to plant less potatoes and the potatoes we plant will be of a higher quality. We are going to try to improve the growth, no, not in growth but in the harvesting. We had problems harvesting potatoes this year. The plowing and harvesting equipment are important. It is very important to avoid mechanical damage to the potato so it can be kept in cold storage. The cold storage facilities in Guinia have been completed and by February we plan to have the cold storage in Guines completed. We plan to have the one in Havana East repaired and have enough cold storage capacity to store the potato crop and not be forced to distribute it all at once.

We are planing to plant more than 100 caballerias of carrots. This is also a winter crop, but it can be stored. We are also planing to increase the amounts of eggplant, yuca, sweet potato, and malanga. Malanga grows. We have 100 caballerias of malanga in Havana and now we are working to have 200 caballarias. We can double the production of malanga with good care, better irrigation equipment, better stock. There is a definite increase. For example, last year's agriculture: How many quintals did we produce in 1990?
[Unidentified speaker] Commander, in 1990 we produced 6.7 million quintals. By 30 September of this year we had produced as much as we did all last year.

[Castro] At the state enterprises? Throughout the province?
[Unidentified speaker] Throughout the province.

[Castro] What is the progress in state enterprises?
[Unidentified speaker] State enterprises have surpassed last year's level by more than 1.2 million quintals.
[Correspondent] Commander, I wanted to tell you that...

[Castro, interrupting] That is not counting this year's plantain crop. This year's plantain crop alone has reached 200,000 quintals.
[Correspondent] Commander, you had a great idea when you suggested the planting of condiments in the cooperatives.

[Castro] Yes, thank you.
[Correspondent] This idea has been very well received but not everyone in Havana has access to it yet because there is not enough. Is it possible to start increasing it?

[Castro] I believe this was a first step. I believe that as we learn from the experience we will be increasing the number of cooperatives and state enterprises that can supply the small markets directly.
[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Castro] My pleasure, and let's hope we can get you some more gasoline so you may come at least three times [a week]. We need television to feature all the work being done. Not only the work in the fields, but the efforts being done by the workers. We have thousands upon

thousands of workers from the capital who would like to be seen at work, to be interviewed from time to time.

[Correspondent] Comrades who are regular workers at the enterprises have approached me to say that since they have been working near the contingents they feel better because they feel they are being employed more effectively, are better understood.

[Castro] What do you think?
[Correspondent] That it is true.

[Castro] Contingents produce more, but there are also some 15-day camps that are very good. We could turn them all into contingents but the general population would not have an opportunity to participate.
[Correspondent] Different people every 15 days.

[Castro] I just visited an excellent 15-day camp next door from the Council of State, the Executive Committee.
[Correspondent] The one from the Navy.

[Castro] What is the name?
[Correspondent] Celia Sanchez.

[Castro] Celia Sanchez. The (?Mariel) from Havana Vieja is one of the best but that is a contingent. These are 15-day camps for the mobilized. Sonrisa de la Victoria is also a very good 15-day camp. I have heard many good things of the 15-day camp, but there is no doubt that the contingents have more experience, organization, productivity. What we have done is make half of them into contingents and the other half into mobilized camps. Otherwise, Havana would only be a consumer.
[Correspondent] We eat a lot.

[Castro] I have seen many people satisfied, happy. They make the sacrifice. It is hard to live in the camps but they get a big spiritual satisfaction afterwards. The food at the camps is good as you have been able to see and in some centers.
[Correspondent] Yes. [laughs]

[Castro] I think that the food is improving at some centers. The food has improved at this center, has it not? Perhaps not as good as at others, but it has improved.

Let us see if we can find you some more fuel so you can make your rounds at least three times a week. You agree?
[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Castro] I am glad to be of help. [passage omitted]

Economic Importance Stressed

PA2510023491 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The food program is one of the most important Cuban economic commitments. It is aimed at defeating agricultural problems.

As everyone knows, Cuba is experiencing serious financial limitations that prevent it from acquiring all the fertilizers, forage, and other items it needs in the agriculture and livestock sectors.

The 50-percent import reduction Cuba is enduring, as a result of the cessation of commercial relations between the island and Eastern Europe and the irregular arrival of Soviet supplies, has had an impact on Cuban food supplies.

Cuban authorities have developed and implemented a food program aimed at satisfying food needs by finding autonomous solutions in line with the nation's potential.

The plan has transformed the country. It has required that technicians, scientists, peasants, and the people in general make a superior effort to increase production of beef, pork, chicken, eggs, tubers, and vegetables.

The plan is promoting territorial self-sufficiency in food; study and work centers; and military units that engage in initiatives to encourage production and the best possible use of the land.

The proliferation in cities and towns of vegetable gardens that are adequately linked to the national plans of the Cuban Agriculture Ministry has gained strength in the country, especially in the western province of Pinar del Rio.

The idea has gained support and the initial results have been good harvests that have served to improve food programs at childcare centers and, in some cases, the food supplies of state markets.

Pinar del Rio families were brought together by Committees for the Defense of the Revolution to work on vegetable gardens after being trained by experts with regard to cultivation programs and what to plant based on the season and the land's characteristics.

This method will contribute to solving food problems in an underdeveloped country such as Cuba.

Sugarcane Workers Charged With Economic Crimes

PA2510041791 Paris AFP in Spanish 2210 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Havana, 24 Oct (AFP)—The Cuban official news agency AIN [National News Agency] announced on 24 October that six sugarcane cutters had been sentenced by the court to between five and 18 years in prison for "sabotage against the national economy."

According to AIN the six sugarcane cutters burned several sugarcane plantations in the region of Matanzas (90 km east of Havana) between December 1990 and March 1991 to conduct unscheduled sugarcane harvesting.

They may have burned 5,750,000 kgs of sugar owned by the Espana Republica Sugar Refinery and valued at slightly less than 50,000 Cuban pesos ($50,000 at the official exchange rate).

The primary accused, Pascual Diaz Rodriguez, 61, was sentenced to 18 years in prison, as was Juan Valie Perez, 20. Alberto Ramos Rodriguez, 22, was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment, while Pedro Ramos Ballesteros and Francisco del Toro Nunez were sentenced to 10 years. Omar Diaz Munoz, 17, was sentenced to five years in prison.

The Fourth Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Congress, which ended last weekend in Santiago de Cuba, had requested a toughening of all penalties against economic crimes.

Castro Assesses Role of National Media

FL2610022791 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 Oct 91

["Remarks" by President Fidel Castro during 12 October session of the Fourth Communist Party of Cuba Congress held at the Heredia Theater in Santiago de Cuba—recorded]

[Text] [words indistinct] help to understand the special period. Realistically speaking, we cannot speak clearer than we did on the first day. [Words indistinct] many times we cannot talk about those things because it would hurt this or that. There are many times when [words indistinct] like the USSR and we are negotiating here and there. While we are negotiating we cannot give a full report to the people on the problems we encounter. Just look at how much time this has taken. We have explained this to many cadres, but the complete report I gave the other day has not been released. It is the first time that [words indistinct] but we could not do it [words indistinct].

Right now we are asking the reporters to hold on to that. We are asking the reporters for their cooperation. We wish the people could be informed of all this, but [words indistinct]. However, we must constantly be asking the reporters to be discreet about this or that, please do not release this or that. If it were up to me, [words indistinct] I would have liked to have the congress broadcast in its entirety even if it were not done live, even if it were broadcast at another hour. I would have liked our words [words indistinct]. However, the nature of our problems, the difficulties we confront, the battles we are waging with [words indistinct] techniques, controlling everything to set traps and create problems for us, forces us to do things in this manner.

This is why the role the reporters play is not easy, just as the role we play is not easy. I do believe that reporters are militants of the revolution; that the press is an instrument of the revolution, and that the first duty of the reporter is to support the revolution and defend the revolution as a principle. [applause] The duty of the reporter is to report and it must abide by that. A reporter should not tell lies, should not try to fool the people. A reporter should be as accurate as possible. However, I do agree with Rosalia [not further identify] that defending the revolution includes many other things that must be studied and discussed [words indistinct]. There are ways to help the revolution [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct] newspapers are the property of the [word indistinct]. [applause] They cannot be owned by a cooperative, a group of people, a collective property. Newspapers belong to the revolution and are for the revolution. The bourgeois press, the bourgeois ideas [words indistinct] give maximum use [words indistinct] support the revolutionary cause and the development of the revolutionary cause, perfecting the use of that media. That is what capitalism uses the newspapers for.

Brother, when the United States does not want something to be reported, it is not reported. I recall those demonstrations of hundreds of thousands in front of the U.S. Embassy on the occasion of I do not know what, [words indistinct], not a word of that was reported in the United States. In a bourgeois system the media is at the service of the system. The revolution and socialism [words indistinct] another system, especially [words indistinct] instrument of the revolution, and I have no doubts about that. Our problem is [word indistinct], give it the best use to defend the revolution, to help it, to support it, to contribute to its development. That is where the problem lies. Our reporters have to overcome this. I [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct] responsibility to [words indistinct] of what they must do. There are times that even I do not know what they are going to say [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct] start their recorder and when you read what they wrote it looks nothing like what you said. [passage indistinct]

There are some new reporters who are very good, there are some very good reporters, but sometimes they can be careless. They can be careless in the way they draft their reports. They make mistakes [words indistinct] on the television, some are nicely done [words indistinct]. The Central Committee must look into this. [Words indistinct] special period. [Words indistinct] if we want to protect the revolution and socialism that the people understand. Give the people as much as they need to understand. We are living like in a war. During a war all you hear are lies. What we have never done is tell a lie. Our war forces us to be pretty discreet and forces us to perfect the mechanisms and methods we have to report; however, it is not easy. We must understand the reporters and the problems they have to carry out their tasks, to carry out their revolutionary tasks. I wish they could help us understand the situation of the special period.

I do not believe that the spirit or faith of the people should be destroyed. The spirit and faith of the people should be lifted. They must be instilled with trust; we must lift their morale. There is a tremendous ideological struggle [being waged] and the enemy wants to weaken the morale of the revolution, it wants to divide it. He [the

enemy] wants to create mistrust, uncertainty. [Words indistinct] all that will help raise morale, but with honesty, with good work, with good information, [words indistinct] with good procedures, with good methods. This is what we need; it is very important.

We have done our best to give the reporters what they need to work with. All these issues [words indistinct] and we must continue. I said that [words indistinct] within the Central Committee. We must confront many problems and many new and changing situations. In addition to the documents, there should be a resolution giving the new Central Committee the authority [applause] [words indistinct] so we will not have to be convoking congresses [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct] have trust in that it will be very revolutionary; have trust in that it will be very [words indistinct] understand that they are surrounded by [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct] trust in how these problems will be handled; what will be done with the workers, and let us work [words indistinct] and the goal. We are living [words indistinct] the Central Committee must be making decisions, the government must be making decisions [words indistinct] firmly revolutionary. [Words indistinct] in Marxist-Leninist hands. [applause]

ANPP Amending Constitution, Electoral Law

FL2510011691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Report by Carlos Santana Rueda on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Only a few minutes ago, Dr. Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], said that ANPP is working to have ready, by December, the amendments to the country's Constitution and electoral law. The amendments will be discussed at the National Assembly to be held in late December.

[Begin Escalona recording] During the Fourth Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, our people said that our electoral system is democratic. [Words indistinct] procedures to amend the constitution and the electoral law. We are working on this right now so that our people will be able to cast direct and secret votes for their municipal and provincial delegates and ANPP deputies. [end recording]

Juan Escalona met with the representatives of the diplomatic academies and schools for international studies who are in Havana participating at a Latin American and Caribbean academic and diplomatic seminar on preparing for the tasks of the third millennium.

[Begin Escalona recording] The one thing that we have not been asked to do is discuss the situation of a one-party system. [I have talked about the concept of a one-party system with many guests from around the continent, Europe, and the United States who have told me they do not understand why we are bent on [words indistinct]. As I have already told you, we are [words indistinct].

Several parties joined in the struggle against the Batista tyranny. When Batista was overthrown, a process to introduce revolutionary institutions in the country was begun. All those organizations had their own views. Then came the aggressions, sabotage, [word indistinct], and the blockade. This forced the country to unite in a single organization, to make a fist to confront the aggression [words indistinct]. We could not interpret this as [word indistinct] that would weaken our country in face of the aggressions. [end recording]

The representatives of the diplomatic academies and schools for international studies will visit the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical-Surgical Hospital to see what the Cuban revolution has achieved.

Popular Vigilance Program Reduces Delinquency

FL2510140091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] A meaningful reduction in acts of delinquency has been noted in Las Tunas Province since an exemplary system of vigilance and protection was implemented. Using the police as a model, all provincial revolutionary sectors have joined a system to strengthen public order and civil peace of mind and to prevent crime. The government, political, popular, and defense organizations, and other groups, even the Pioneers, have internalized the key importance of vigilance and integrity to save and preserve state resources. Patrols are systematically conducted in Las Tunas to avoid the theft and slaughter of cattle, armed robbery in commercial centers, and illegal extraction of produce from self-sufficiency plots. Mounted patrols, groups of cart drivers, motorcycle and bicycle riders, as well canine brigades, all integrated by local people, make it impossible for criminals to conduct their activities.

Canada Will Not Alter Political, Trade Links

FL2510041991 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Canadian Ambassador to Cuba Robert Middleton stated on 24 October that, despite the changes in the world, Canada's traditional economic and political relations, and its cooperation with Cuba will remain unchanged. He added that, as has been the case over the past 30 years, the Canadian Government will continue to oppose the U.S. diplomatic and economic embargo against the island while continuing to conduct mutually beneficial trade with Cuba.

The ambassador told PRENSA LATINA that Canada will not allow foreign pressures or policies from a third country to hinder bilateral trade.

Dominican Republic

Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo Closes

PA2610021791 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2337 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Santo Domingo, 25 Oct (DPA)—Surprisingly, the Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo remained closed today. No explanation was given for the closure, which occurred 24 hours after Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer asked the OAS to reduce the sanctions against Haiti.

Guy Alexandre, the Haitian ambassador, was not available for comment at the embassy, which is located near the Santo Domingo Autonomous University and guarded by members of the Dominican police's elite special protection corps, who are equipped with submachine guns.

A "closed" sign hung at the embassy's front door and no one answered the phone. Numerous Haitians living in the Dominican Republic stood in front of the building waiting for some official to receive them.

Alexandre arrived at the Dominican Republic on 8 September, to succeed Alex Chassagne, after he was designated ambassador by the now deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Haiti

Prime Minister Seeks Talks Concerning Aristide

PA2510195491 Paris AFP in Spanish 1823 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Oct 25 (AFP)—Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat stated on 25 October that he is occupying the post to "prevent a civil war in the country and engage in talks" on "the return or not of Father Jean-Bertrande Aristide," the deposed Haitian president.

Honorat said to AFP: "There are demands for Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return and for him not to return. These are contradictory demands that must be confronted at the negotiating table. I am merely a mediator, a catalyst."

Without favoring either of the two "demands," Honorat stressed that "there is a need for clear guarantees for both (groups) within the framework of the country's Constitution" and that the matter should not be settled by "foreign dictate."

In this respect, he criticized the vote for an international embargo against Haiti after the coup d'etat, which he believes could "lead people to barbarism and civil war."

Honorat also evaluated the meeting between the Haitian parliamentary mission and the OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares on 21 October, as "globally satisfactory."

He was equally satisfied with the fact that the meeting will be followed up next week when an OAS delegation visits Haiti. The prime minister asserted: "We will guarantee the security of all the delegates, as well as of the foreigners in the country."

Honorat also reported that he ordered the release of two priests who were in jail over the past days and had also ordered "that there be no further arrests based on their opinions." However, he noted that the people who are still in jail must be tried for the possession of weapons, incendiary bombs, or attempts against the public order.

Honorat asserted that he did not know of "summary executions or police raids" carried out by the military, but that, "unfortunately, there is no country in the world that is sheltered from police brutality or excesses."

Media and health sources have provisionally evaluated that the victims of repression amount to more than 200 dead and several hundred wounded, military sources reduce the number of dead to less than a hundred, and Father Aristide says the number is closer to a thousand.

On 24 October, the U.S. Embassy condemned the human rights violations by the "de facto regime" and stated that it had creditable reports of "indiscriminate killings."

The decline in activities in Port-au-Prince and the provinces due to the lack of oil was clearly visible on 24 October.

Present Situation in Country Assessed

FL2510193991 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 1140 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Approximately one month after its bloody military coup, there was general anxiety in Haiti yesterday, according to an AFP dispatch. The unease among the people is the result of what observers consider the most serious crisis in the country, triggered 30 September by the Army's overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a coup that, a partial assessment reports, has left more than two dead and hundreds wounded.

This general anxiety was reinforced by U.S. Ambassador Alvin P. Adams' call on 22 October for Americans to leave Haiti because of anticipated hardships and shortages. Fuel rationing has already begun. A total depletion of fuel reserves is expected by 31 October. This prediction has resulted in long lines of cars in gas stations. Most Port-au-Prince observers say that everything will depend—barring an improbable military reversal—on the rigor of the commercial embargo applied by Haiti's principal economic benefactor, the United States. In the event of a complete embargo, without humanitarian

exception, the situation would quickly become unbearable for the current authorities.

Dominique Levanti, AFP reporter in Haiti, further states in a dispatch that all agree that the key to a solution of the crisis remains in the Army's hands. Given the current hostilities, if the deposed president sweeps in like a whirlwind, there could be bloody disturbances. According to some moderate parliamentarians, says Levanti, a wise solution could be a genuine union government headed—in compliance with the Constitution—by a general-consensus prime minister, in collaboration with President Aristide living abroad. This scenario could provide negotiated national and international controls of Aristide's future power, once passions diminish. One deputy pointed out that this solution would allow everyone—the Army, Father Aristide, and the international community—to save face; and Haiti, which has always been an exception, could again move ahead on the international scene.

Today, 6.5 million Haitians, with a background of ecological disaster and total dependence upon foreign aid for their energy needs, are affected. Today the country must have access to massive imports of rice and flour to survive, whereas in the past—since its independence in 1804—the traditional bloody political jolts of the Caribbean republic had never affected more than a portion of Haiti's population, in a country which was wooded and nearly self- sufficient as far as food goes.

Levanti adds that politically, the country is on the brink of civil war and divided into two antagonistic, apparently irreconcilable factions, with the force of weapons on one side, and the force of the masses on the other. The Army, particularly its grassroots, is considered responsible for the bloody reprisals in the shantytowns of Port-au-Prince. Most of the wealthy, and a portion of the middle classes, are violently opposed to Father Aristide's return to power because they see in him a symbol of division and intolerance, as well as a threat to their lives and property. On the other hand, the remainder of the population, composed mostly of the immense masses of the poor, perceive the deposed president with a nearly mystical fervor as their savior and fierce defender of their interests.

Political observers say the crisis is complicated by political contradictions within each of the two main actors, the head of the Army, and the deposed president. Before the military coup, in fact, far from being considered a potential putschist, General Raoul Cedras was perceived by his peers and within diplomatic circles as one of the most democratic and upright of the Army officers. Furthermore, he successfully ensured the general elections which democratically swept Aristide to power last December.

President Aristide, on the other hand, to the great disappointment of his moderate partisans, showed signs before his overthrow of political intolerance, and stooped to praise of necklacing as a political tactic, not only against former tonton macoutes, but also against parliamentarians who were as democratically elected as he was.

Negotiating Delegation to OAS Reports to Senate

FL2610010591 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The Senate of the Republic is in session at the Legislative Palace. Parliamentarians from the Upper Chamber are listening to the parliamentarian delegation. Senator Eddy Dupiton and Guy Bauduy were two members of the delegation who have been negotiating with the OAS regarding the crisis. Our reporter has some details.

[Begin Jean-Marie Ferrary recording] We are still at the Legislative Palace where for an hour the Senate has been listening to the report of the delegation sent to negotiate with the OAS in Washington. We have learned nothing about what is being said in this important meeting. The meeting is expected to last two to three hours.

Nevertheless, First Secretary of the Senate Mr. Cadet has advised Senator Bauduy to formally deny the rumors that the members of the delegation were attacked by partisans of the former regime. After meeting with the Senate, the delegation will also report to the president. We are asking our listeners to stay tuned because a news conference is planned for later.

Remember that the delegation returned last night. The delegation included Deputy Joseph Lambert, Senator Guy Bauduy, and Senator Eddy Dupiton. They left the country on 19 October for Washington and met with the OAS for three days. More details later. [end recording]

Government Releases Businessman, Singer

FL2610132691 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Haiti's provisional government has released two men arrested on charges of encouraging violence following the overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Businessman Antoine Ismari and singer Mono Charlemana were set free yesterday without comment from the government. Their release came one day after the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince denounced what it called arbitrary arrests and other abuses by the provisional government.

President on Economy, North-South Dialogue

PM25101152891 Paris LE MONDE in French
25 Oct 91 p 7

[Interview with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari by Andre Fontaine in Mexico; date not given]

[Text] [Fontaine] You have just entered the second half of your six-year mandate. You have already introduced considerable changes. What is your proudest achievement?

[Salinas] The most important achievement relates to people's thinking. I was elected at a time when Mexicans were demanding change: That demand coincided, in an extraordinary way, with the upheaval in the world situation. I officially pledged to ensure that that change would strengthen our nation and thus take account of the tradition, values, and cultural elements which unite us. Mexicans are now envisaging their future with optimism. Their self-confidence is, in my view, the most important result of the actions taken.

[Fontaine] Do you have the feeling that they support you in that policy?

[Salinas] The different initiatives that I presented have received great support. For instance, the proposed free trade agreement between Mexico, the United States, and Canada, which runs completely counter to the customary way of thinking and acting in Mexico. Well, the latest opinion poll shows that 70 percent of Mexicans are in favor of that.

[Fontaine] The Rio Grande has hitherto separated not just two nations but two cultures and, you could even say, two philosophies of life. Is it not paradoxical that you have moved closer to the United States after a long period of distrust, at a time when the disappearance of the Soviet threat means that there is nothing to counterbalance the United States in the world?

[Salinas] When you move closer to such a powerful neighbor, you must also move closer to your neighbors from other regions. Diversification is therefore one of the main components of our strategy. I have stressed the need for closer relations with Europe, with Japan, and the countries of the Asia-Pacific zone, and more especially with Latin America. We have just signed a free-trade agreement with Chile. And we have established contacts with the Central American countries with a view to creating a free-trade area with them. We are working as fast as we can to reach a similar agreement with Venezuela and Colombia.

We were able to host the first ever Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara in July, with the participation of all interested heads of state and of government. The next will be held in Spain in 1992. The following one in Brazil. A follow-up committee has the task of ensuring that the decisions taken are in fact implemented.

[Fontaine] When we consider the future, the question of the new world order comes naturally to mind. What is your view on that?

[Salinas] If we do not succeed in reducing the huge discrepancies between North and South, the notion of a new world order scarcely has any meaning. The same is true of the possibility of freer trade among nations. If the integrated commercial blocs being formed are turned into fortresses, the risk of commercial wars will grow. That is why the current negotiations on GATT—the Uruguay Round—are so important. If we all contribute, the problem of inequalities between North and South will be settled by trade, rather than by aid, which does not change much on a permanent basis, whereas trade increases the number of jobs.

There is also the major problem of scarcity of capital. This is partly the result of the large hole which reunification has made in German reserves, of the transformation of Central Europe, and of the very high cost of restructuring the Soviet economy. Another great unknown is the Asia-Pacific countries with the highest growth rates in the world and the possibility of developing their own region as a priority. The role of multilateral organizations like the United Nations still has to be determined.

It seems to me that we must strengthen the United Nations, without aspiring to turn it into a supranational body with the power to interfere in nations' internal affairs.

[Fontaine] Your foreign minister took a firm stance at the United Nations against the right of interference—a notion which is rapidly gaining ground in Europe because of events in Yugoslavia or the USSR. Do you think that nothing should be done to help minorities which feel that their identity is threatened?

[Salinas] No; the crucial thing is to prevent certain countries from using the United Nations to impose their views on sovereign states.

[Fontaine] Do you believe in solutions in a regional framework?

[Salinas] Yes. I have seen how the EEC has reacted to the Yugoslav crisis, and I believe that there are cases in which regional organizations can work very well, because what happens on their borders is likely to have a considerable internal effect.

[Fontaine] How do you view Cuba's future in this context?

[Salinas] What happens in Cuba is the Cubans' responsibility. At the same time, it must be admitted that they are facing the worst economic situation in their history. And events in the USSR are merely making things worse. In such a climate it is virtually inevitable that something should happen sooner or later.

[Fontaine] What do you expect from trade with France?

[Salinas] We expect closer economic relations. We would like to have more European investment and especially French investment, because that would enable Mexican products to penetrate the European market. We have privatized our telephones, which is not only the largest-scale privatization carried out in Mexico—$4 billion cash—but one of the biggest in the world.

France Telecom has taken a large share along with other foreign enterprises, and that will enable us to have closer relations with France and at the same time to benefit from France Telecom's very advanced technology.

[Fontaine] So you are satisfied with the pace at which relations with France are developing....

[Salinas] Yes, but I would like more, and more quickly. Circumstances, especially political circumstances, are very favorable. We broke a foreign investment record last year with $4 billion. However, this year, we have already doubled that figure.

We must also take account of an important influx (more than $3 billion) of capital brought home by Mexicans participating in the acquisition of privatized enterprises or the expansion of the economy. For the first half of 1991, growth is 5 percent in real terms.

[Fontaine] The line which you are following—rapprochement with the United States and privatization—contradicts the positions upheld by the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] which has become the doyen of ruling parties in the world after the defeat of the CPSU. Accusations of fraud were made against it during the August elections and the governors of Guanajuato and San Luis Potosi immediately resigned. Should the change not also be extended to this sector?

[Salinas] The PRI has already changed its practices, the profile of its candidates, and the way in which it fights its campaigns. It must change even more, but what has already been done, in addition to the improvement in the economic situation and the difficulties which the opposition parties are having in changing, explains August's very good election results that highlighted the PRI's fine performance, achievements, and recovery.

We are convinced that it is possible to bring about economic, social, and political progress, emphasizing dialogue, mutual respect, and consensus. We have launched a social program called Solidarity that proves that we are not waiting for the economic recovery to have an impact on the population's welfare. Look at the statistics—there is the Solidarity program, financed with resources from the privatizations, with a very tight budget, the deficit having been replaced by a surplus.

Well, in 30 months, this program has made it possible to distribute running water to 8 million people and electricity to 11 million. We have modernized 50,000 schools throughout the country and doubled the number of clinics in rural and Indian villages.

[Fontaine] Are you optimistic for Central America?

[Salinas] I am very optimistic now that agreement in principle has just been concluded in El Salvador. But Central America needs more resources to finance its development.

* Church Leaders Address Indian, Peasant Issues

* Quintero Arce Statements

92CA0008A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 21 Sep 91 p 3

[Report by Jose Antonio Roman]

[Text] Mexico's Indians and peasants are being used to legitimize the public authorities. In political campaigns promises are made to them and then never kept, as they remain the most disadvantaged segment of our society, the archbishop of Hermosillo, Sonora, Carlos Quintero Arce, charged yesterday.

He said that "justice is almost never done" to Indians. They normally are the losers in legal proceedings; they live disadvantaged lives, and attacks are made on their culture, which is regarded as an obstacle to the country's progress. Moreover, their cultures are seen as being unable to afford Mexico great benefits.

Attending the opening day of the National Indigenous Congress, organized by the Mexican Episcopate, Quintero Arce indicated that an economic crisis persists in Mexico, as the gap between the haves and the have-nots remains unchanged and is even widening steadily.

He recalled that in accordance with official data released by the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol), there are 40 million poor people in the country, of whom 17 million live in squalor. "There is also talk of a political crisis, of fraud and corruption. In a word, the effects of the crisis are making themselves felt in every sphere of national life."

We know, he said, that in Mexico there are 60 different ethnic groups that speak around 200 different languages. Indigenous groups are scattered throughout the country, but 40 percent of them are to be found in the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

Although some Indians are fishermen and others make handicrafts, most are peasant farmers, and their social problems are closely tied to the realities of our country's rural areas.

In giving a brief rundown of the situation in which Indians find themselves, the prelate indicated that in the economic sphere "we cannot deny that they own the worst lands, because they were stripped of the best ones." Many others do not even own an inch of land and as wage-earning farm workers lack secure jobs and are severely exploited; many often have to emigrate to other areas of the country or abroad in search of better prospects and living standards.

Quintero Arce remarked that the country's economic crises are having a dramatic impact on indigenous communities, because the excessive increase in the cost of living has deprived them of a good diet, health care, schooling, and other needs that are indispensable to a decent life, and thus they have fallen into poverty and hunger.

Speaking before representatives of 24 ethnic groups from around the country who were attending the National Indigenous Congress, he said that the traditional indigenous authorities are being preserved to settle questions that are almost never of political significance. Their sphere is almost always religious, and they survive as a form of folklore that outsiders can exploit.

In this regard he added that indigenous cultures are customarily regarded as objects of study and curiosity, as a source of folklore for national tourism, and even as areas of medical, economic, and social experimentation.

"We have learned that as a result of international commitments an antibirth policy is being pursued in indigenous communities; this represents a brutal assault on their fundamental rights as individuals."

Therefore, work to promote the dignity of Indians is more necessary than ever. A comprehensive evangelization is urgently needed now, and the Indians themselves must assume decisive responsibility in this. Consequently, this gathering has set the promotion of Indians as its objective so that they can become the beneficiaries and principal agents of this new evangelization.

Nonetheless, he cautioned that "there can be no talk of a new evangelization unless we realize that our missionary commitment must extend to achieving a more just coexistence in our country and steadier progress towards true democracy."

Opposition to Pronasol. Its Activities Are Government Obligations

Interviewed at the close of his address, Quintero Arce spoke about the National Solidarity Program. He said that providing drinking water, electric power, paved roads, schools, and services to the neediest people is not a show of solidarity because this represents an obligation that the government ought to fulfill.

"True solidarity," he said, "does not mean handing out crumbs and then congratulating oneself. It is mutual aid between two brothers. Here, however, we have the powerful who rule the roost and others who have nothing. It is the government's obligation to provide services, because this is what we Mexicans pay taxes for. Where are all these revenues? Are they perhaps being spent on travel by so many politicians and on vote-getting campaigns?"

He also said that after the president's repeated promises about the democratization of society, thoughts were turning to the many advanced political reforms that have not yet arrived.

He cautioned that truly democratic progress cannot be sustained by seeking merely economic betterment, because such progress comes as the result of respect for the will that the people express freely at the ballot box. "In a democratic system the vote is very valuable because it alone determines who the people's representatives are."

In conclusion, he regretted that the U.S. mass media have major influence on the Mexican Government. As an example he cited the results of the elections in Guanajuato, which the American press harshly criticized; in the wake of this, there was backtracking on the appointment of Ramon Aguirre Velazquez as governor-elect. "This and the attempt to amend local legislation to exclude (Vicente) Fox are truly shameful episodes."

* Oaxaca's Coadjutor's Views

92CA0008B Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 22 Sep 91 p 19

[Report by Jose Antonio Roman]

[Text] With the signing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States and Canada imminent, the government, the Catholic Church, and Mexican society at large have a major commitment to seek viable alternatives to protect the peasants and Indians, who constitute the most vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of our country, the archbishop coadjutor of Oaxaca, Hector Gonzalez Martinez, asserted yesterday.

He said that in this effort timely lending to farmers, job training, technical support, formal schooling, the provision of services, and a comprehensive evangelization are essential factors for giving this segment of the population dignity and progress.

Gonzalez Martinez, who is also the chairman of the Social Pastoral Commission of the Mexican Episcopate, denounced the "siphoning off and embezzlement of funds that has taken place in the banks" that are in charge of meeting the credit needs of the countryside. "It is immoral and unseemly for someone to siphon off funds and use them for his personal gain. This is a deplorable action that demands a change of attitude."

During the National Indigenous Congress, organized by the Mexican Catholic Church as part of the Year of the Indian, the Oaxaca prelate emphasized that material goods and private property must have a social mortgage; that is to say, they must aim at the general welfare of man, not just of their owners.

He acknowledged, however, that "several centuries have passed, and Indians are still not sitting at the table of creativity and of the benefits that mankind has attained through scientific and technological discoveries."

Therefore, the entire society, including government and the church, as well as the production sectors, must urgently take up their responsibility to work for the authentic promotion of Indians and peasants, above all

now that the country is confronted with economic globalization in which agricultural and job training will be very important.

In this same connection he emphasized that we must understand that peasant farmers do not work the land to make a profit; rather, they do so as part of a subsistence economy. This attitude, the bishop said, "is quite close to the Gospel in terms of simplicity, humility, poverty, and austerity." Nonetheless, he indicated that ideally a way would be found for the peasants to produce more and better, without affecting these values, thus enabling them to enjoy the benefits that mankind has achieved.

"Although the peasants must be the primary promoters of their own development, society must take up the responsibility of working together to dignify a sector that has traditionally been bypassed by technological advances and whose human rights have all too often been violated."

In response to a specific question, Hector Gonzalez contended that government officials have often failed to give proper assistance to peasants and Indians because they are unaware of the extreme poverty in which they really live, "or perhaps they are familiar with it but are very far from feeling it. They know it only by sight."

Unfortunately, there are also selfish government officials who seek only their own gain, thus showing that "they have worldly views, a secularized upbringing, and completely lack Christian principles."

Costa Rica

Trade Agreement Negotiation Difficulties Foreseen

PA2510154891 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2041 GMT 24 Oct 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] San Jose, 24 Oct (DPA)—Costa Rican Trade Minister Roberto Rojas said today that the disparate levels of development and the inferior economic conditions in some nations make it difficult to consolidate a Central American bloc or to negotiate free trade agreements with the United States and other nations.

Rojas said: This is why, even though Costa Rica will continue to support collective efforts for open trade, it will also embark on bilateral agreements should some nation in the area fall behind or simply decide not to join the integration process.

"It is difficult for a group of nations to advance at the same pace in the negotiations; some because they do not wish to, others because they are unable," Rojas noted.

In a meeting with the foreign press Rojas explained the negotiations that his country has been conducting for the past year with the United States to reach a free trade agreement, as well as similar efforts with Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Costa Rica's access to the large trading blocs, such as the North American bloc that Mexico, the United States, and Canada are trying to form, is very important to the nation's development and growth, Rojas said.

In this regard, Rojas said that President Rafael Angel Calderon's government is trying to create favorable conditions to attract the greatest possible amount of foreign investment, as this is considered a step with far reaching effects on Costa Rica's economic development.

Rojas admitted that the opening to trade and to foreign investment implies, in a certain way, that the nation could become a center for assembly plants.

Nevertheless, Rojas noted, this is a stage that "we cannot omit." Rojas said: "We must let foreign investment in. We will have to let them participate in our economy. We cannot do this alone, otherwise we stand to lose. We must be realistic, we have to learn from foreign companies."

According to Trade Ministry figures, as of September, foreign investments totaled $114 million, that is higher than last year.

The main investment sectors were tourism, industry, and farming, which generated a total of 10,000 jobs.

The minister said that the main stumbling block that Costa Rica has to overcome to gain access to the big world markets is to solve its macroeconomic situation. "We must overcome the fiscal deficit of the past 10 years to have normal interest rates," and to have similar economic conditions as trading partners with whom we are negotiating, he noted.

In November, Costa Rica signed the foundation for a free trade agreement with the United States and negotiations are currently at the exchange of information phase.

Rojas heads an official delegation that will initiate conversations on 15 November in Washington that concern a future agreement on the protection of intellectual property.

A U.S. delegation also conducted negotiations this week in San Jose.

Rojas stated that negotiating a free trade agreement with the United States is a slow process, since a number of conditions must be studied and discussed. Among these are: the establishment of an climate for investment, a healthy macroeconomic situation, and an internal legal system that would protect intellectual property.

Meanwhile, the official said that before the end of the year the document for a treaty between Mexico and Costa Rica would be ready. In this document, he noted that sensitive issues will be taken up that must be resolved at the highest level.

Rojas pointed out that President Calderon and President Salinas de Gortari could possibly meet next year to analyze the progress made in negotiating free trade between both nations.

The Central American nations set down the bases for such an agreement with Mexico in January during a presidential summit in Tuxtla, Gutierrez.

El Salvador

Interview With FMLN Captain on Negotiations

PA2810021691 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] [Announcer] We must remember that Captain David Paz returned to this department from Mexico City on a UN helicopter. We will now make contact with Comrade David Paz.

Good evening, Comrade David. First, we want to give you a warm greeting from Radio Farabundo Marti. We want to ask you a question. Can you review for us the current state of the negotiations and what progress has been made?

[Paz] First, allow me to warmly greet the brothers of Radio Farbundo Marti as well as those from Radio Venceremos and our people in general. As for the question you are asking, we can say that the outlook for the negotiations is very encouraging. Regarding this, one of the conclusions we can draw is that this is the beginning

of the end for the military. It is the victory of civilian society that is the real winner. The history of repression and crimes perpetrated by the National Guard and the Treasury Police will come to an end. As for the the socioeconomic agreements, the agrarian reform, and the agreements on the situation for peasants in war zones, we can say that the interests of peasants and cooperative members are well represented. The negotiations have not ended. There are important topics that remain to be discussed. The next weeks will be fundamental. The negotiations respond to the interests for which we have struggled. The struggle has become the guarantee and the dynamics of the agreements.

[Announcer] Capt. David, how have the talks at the negotiating table in which the cease-fire was discussed developed? We understand that you are one of the END [National Army for Democracy] leaders at the table.

[Paz] As for discussion of the cease-fire, we submitted a proposal for an informal cease-fire as a means of guaranteeing a definitive cease-fire. It was rejected by the government, both in theory and in practice, because we have seen Army incursions into the areas under our control. Both delegations, however, made an effort to reach agreements, even though we did not obtain the results we had expected. In the next round of talks, however, we believe that there is a real chance of reaching substantial agreements on this cease-fire topic.

[Announcer] On this same subject, over the past few days, we have heard statements by Army spokesmen, especially from Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes, Col. Juan Orlando Zepeda, General Rene Emilio Ponce, and others, who have clearly hinted at resistance against the Army agreements. They have repeatedly mentioned that there are divisions within the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. They were specifically referring to military actions in the country, while negotiations were taking place in Mexico. What is your opinion, Comrade?

[Paz] As for the statements by Elena Fuentes and Col. Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, this shows that in practice this is the beginning of the end for the military. It shows the division that exists inside the Armed Forces. There is no political commitment to implement the political agreements signed in New York, as well as those that were discussed at the meeting recently held in Mexico, which have not yet been signed, however substantial progress has been made in this regard.

[Announcer] Comrade Capt. David Paz, the microphones of Radio Farabundo Marti are your's if you wish to send a message to the Salvadoran people and to the END fighters.

[Paz] Greetings to all the fighters and to the Salvadoran people in general. I call on you to so maintain your firm footing and fight to defend democracy and peace, which the Salvadoran people so desire.

[Announcer] Thank you Capt. David Paz.

Guatemala

Serrano on Peace Talks, Belize, Other Topics

PA2610034491 Guatemala City Telenova Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] President Jorge Serrano said 24 October that he will demonstrate to the Constitutionality Court that his government has not violated the Constitution of the Republic by recognizing Belize as an independent state. Serrano made the statement after the Bar and Notaries Association of Guatemala issued a resolution calling the recognition of independence granted by President Serrano to Belize illegal because it is against the Constitution of the Republic and the law.

The Bar Association, in its decision on the case, stated that all the consequences derived from such recognition are also illegal, because they do not conform to the existing legal and constitutionality principles. The Bar Association resolution requests that the Congress make a statement on this issue because it represents a very important political decision that could affect national interests with respect to Belize, adding that the procedure followed by President Serrano is not established in the Guatemalan Constitution or the law.

The Bar Association believes that, given the reasons presented in its resolution, the president must rectify his position regarding the recognition granted to Belize, to conform to constitutional principles and the law.

On 24 October, after the Bar Association resolution was made public, Serrano was questioned on it:

[Begin recording] [Serrano] The Constitutionality Court is responsible for judging the legality of government actions. My government, before making its decision concerning Belize, consulted with attorneys and many jurists of the country, in strict adherence to the law.

If the Bar Association or any Guatemalan citizen believes that we, by mistake or disregard, violated the Constitution of the Republic, he should go to the Constitutionality Court. According to the Constitution, the Constitutionality Court is the legal institution responsible for judging the constitutionality of acts by my government. If at any time an appeal or protest is made to the Constitutionality Court, we will defend ourselves and specify the juridical elements used to make our decision.

My government's actions, I repeat to the Guatemalan people and the international community, are done in strict adherence to the law. We act in good faith and strict adherence to the Constitution. That is why I feel very relaxed.

I do not want to prejudge anyone, but I know that these days, during the presentation of credentials by the Belizean ambassador to Guatemala or the visit by Prime Minister Price, there are political forces that will try to create some kind of problem. However, I will respect the

resolutions issued by the Constitutionality Court, as established by the Constitution of the Republic.

[Unidentified reporter] Can we state that, after the presentation of credentials, the recognition of Belize's independence is final?

[Serrano] Well, regarding the administrative measures adopted by my government, I would say so. However, if there is an illegality that we have overlooked, and someone convinces the Constitutionality Court that we acted illegally, my government will abide by the law and will have to make the necessary modifications, because I do not want to violate the Constitution.

In addition, I want the Guatemalan people to understand clearly that Guatemala maintains its claim over Belizean territory. However, we are going to make this claim in a civilized manner. How are we going to do it? By means of arbitration or any other means available. This is fundamental for the country and this is the decision that I am willing to submit, as mandated by the Constitution, to the Congress and, through the Congress, to a referendum.

[Reporter] Could the pope arbitrate in this case, as was done in South America?

[Serrano] Definitely. We all agreed with the arbitration between Chile and Argentina, where His Holiness served as the arbitrator. As you know, in Latin America there are hundreds of litigations, and I do not know why this has become a problem in Guatemala.

The fact that jurists would place political issues above obvious legal matters highly intrigues and saddens me. In Honduras, for example, there is a claim against Belize over the Ranguana and Sapodilla Cays. Honduras and Belize enjoy excellent relations, in which the two countries benefit from the exploitation of the sea, and so on. Honduras and El Salvador have a very serious border dispute, but they have diplomatic relations and [words indistinct]. Nicaragua and Colombia have a strong claim over the San Andres Islands, yet they have not fought over it.

We must mark the distinction between our diplomatic relations with a given country and whatever claims we may have. Guatemala will uphold its claim; we are going to appoint a commission of first-rate jurists to defend Guatemalan interests, and we are going to do this in a civilized manner.

I could calmly tell those who oppose this that we have had 500 years to solve the dispute. It was not solved the hard way and we are just beginning to solve it the easy way.

[Reporter] What would happen if everything you have done is rejected after the referendum, which the Constitution states must be held?

[Serrano] No, because what will be voted on is the territorial dispute, and the people may accept or reject it. This is about the sovereignty of the two countries.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you have spoken from your heart and about what is right, but you have not told us about the legal foundations for the decision on Belize.

[Serrano] Excuse me, sir, I am telling you that we have approached the best jurists in Guatemala on the Belize issue. We set our course of action based on the opinions of Guatemalan jurists, who are outstanding constitutionalists. We are sure that this administration has stuck to the law and we will demonstrate this at the Constitutionality Court proceedings. [end recording]

The president said the premature conclusion of the fifth round of talks between the government and the guerrillas indicates their failure.

[Begin recording] [Serrano] We believe that the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] has adopted an intransigent stand. We will study this stand because this is our duty. We think, however, that it is not good to react hastily to proposals. We will give them due consideration. We will again express the government's stance to the conciliator. I wish to tell you that I am making these remarks because their remarks do not reflect what we agreed. We want to make clear to all of Guatemala and the international community that any negotiations with the URNG must strictly and completely fall within the country's legal system. Guatemala has a democratic system. We will conduct all negotiations within a legal framework. I was constitutionally elected to watch over the country's legality. The URNG people were told very clearly that my government cannot make any concessions outside the law. This is why we think that their proposals are outside the law and that the conciliator must make them understand the nature of the first commitment made in Mexico. As you surely remember, this first commitment entailed [words indistinct] that, regardless of the outcome of the negotiations or the agreements reached, there would be no deviation from the law. This is the commitment made. The government views some of their proposals as illegal. It is time for them to understand that a legally constituted government cannot act outside the law.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Serrano] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Serrano] Not at all. We view it with optimism. We think this is a matter for negotiation, where we will gradually pass through every stage. In the talks with the URNG, it was also agreed—and I think this is positive—to change the mechanism we have used so we can expedite the decisionmaking process. In other words, we could not say that the Mexico meeting was a failure. I think it was useful to make considerations, some of them very hard, and achieve a certain degree of understanding, which is

better than the stand of [words indistinct]. We will not pass judgment, but we believe the process of revising the mechanism is positive and very healthy. I am optimistic and think we have made progress at the Mexico meeting. [end recording]

On 24 October, President Serrano was asked about the disagreement between Prosecutor General Asecio Valladares and former President Vinicio Cerezo after the Constitutionality Court issued a resolution rejecting a proposal by Cerezo for Valladares' removal.

[Begin Serrano recording] I do not wish to intervene in the problem. I respect both Cerezo and Valladares. While Valladares' duty is to watch over the fulfillment of law, Cerezo is a former president of the Republic. Consequently, this subject should not be made part of a political discussion. [end recording]

Panama

National Police Director Tenders Resignation

PA2610201791 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1917 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Panama City, 26 Oct (ACAN - EFE)—Government sources reported today that National Police Director Gonzalo Menendez Franco, who has been the target of strong criticism from the opposition in recent weeks for becoming involved in partisan political activities, has resigned.

In a letter disclosed today by the Media Secretariat of the Presidency, Menendez Franco submitted to President Guillermo Endara his "irrevocable resignation" as acting [as received] director of the National Police, a position he has held since 9 April.

"Upon reviewing the attacks and commentaries against you because of my personal involvement in the ruling Arnulfist Party convention [PA], I feel I am being used as an instrument for such attacks," Menendez Franco's letter indicated, explaining the motives for his resignation.

"Mr. President, I am your friend and you can count on my help whenever you needed it and it may be necessary," the letter of resignation concluded.

President Endara had admitted that Menendez Franco "broke the law," in participating at the PA convention in late September, but said he would keep him in that post. Endara stated early this month that he decided Menendez Franco should not resign as National Police chief but should resign instead from the PA, to which he belongs. Endara ordered him to refrain henceforth from getting involved in partisan political activities.

On 29 December, Menendez Franco participated in a convention of the PA, Endara's own party, giving rise to protests from the opposition. In addition, Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier was summoned to the National Legislative Assembly to explain the matter.

On 21 October, the opposition failed to pass a censure vote against Chevalier for not dismissing the National Police chief, because it did not garner the support of two-thirds of the 67 legislators.

It has not been reported yet if Endara is accepting the resignation of Menendez Franco, who had temporarily left the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property to occupy the post of police chief.

Text of Resignation Noted

PA2610213591 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2010 GMT 26 Oct 91

["Text" of National Police Director Gonzalo Menendez Franco's letter of resignation—read by announcer]

[Text] Panama City, 25 October 1991 His Excellency Mr. Guillermo Endara Galimany, President of the Republic Your Excellency Mr. President:

Taking into consideration the attacks and statements made against you because of my personal involvement in the Arnulfista Party [PA] National Convention, I feel that I serve as the instrument for those attacks.

Consequently, I tender my irrevocable resignation from the post of acting [as heard] director general of the National Police, a post with which you distinguished me on 9 April.

Mr. President, I am your friend and you can count on my efforts on whatever occasion they are required.

His Excellency Mr. President, with due consideration, I remain

Yours truly, Gonzalo Menendez Franco.

Argentina

Provincial General Elections Reported as Normal

PY2710205291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1259 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (TELAM)—General elections in Jujuy, Salta, Chaco, Santiago del Estero, Corrientes, and La Rioja Provinces, as well as in Santa Fe and Rio Negro Provinces—where only national deputies are being elected—are developing normally.

At 0805 (La Rioja time), President Carlos Menem was the first citizen to vote at voting station 43 of Pedro Ignacio de Castro Barros School. He greeted the voting station authorities, cast his vote, and then held a news conference in the school principal's office. [passage omitted]

In Chaco Province, where many citizens have been voting since early morning, a governor and deputy governor; national and provincial legislators; and municipal officials are being elected. [passage omitted]

In Corrientes Province, the 503,919 registered voters can cast their votes until 1800. They will choose 26 voters who will elect, in an electoral college, the new provincial authorities: the governor; deputy governor; national and provincial legislators; and community authorities.

In Santiago del Estero Province, the voters will elect a governor and deputy governor; national deputies; provincial legislators; and municipal authorities. In addition, they will elect an ombudsman for the first time. [passage omitted]

In Salta Province, the elections for governor, national and provincial legislators, and municipal authorities began shortly after 0800. A large number of voters have been arriving at the various voting stations since early morning.

Metal Workers Union Plans Pro-Somisa Strike

PY2510223091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Oct 91 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] (DYN-NA)—The Metal Workers Union (UOM) gave a green light yesterday for a national strike next Wednesday [30 October] in support of Somisa [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association] personnel. Meanwhile, a contingent of workers from the San Nicolas steel plant will travel today to the federal capital to set up camp in front of the Plaza de Mayo, among other protest measures.

UOM Secretary-General Lorenzo Miguel gave the go-ahead nod yesterday to a national strike following a detailed report presented by San Nicolas UOM leader Naldo Brunelli after close to 10 hours of deliberations.

In statements to reporters, Miguel also accused Somisa trustee Jorge Triaca of "provoking the workers" and of wanting "to impose his will over the courts." [passage omitted]

San Nicolas Mayor Eduardo di Rocco said yesterday that the decision of both CGTs [General Confederation of Labor] not to support a request made by Somisa workers for a national strike constituted "a hard blow" to their struggle.

Di Rocco stated that "for two or three days the workers have received bad news," referring to Federal Judge Ricardo Weschler's rejection of a court injunction filed by Labour Judge Alicia Ruiz against the Somisa management.

However the Labour Appeals court yesterday upheld the prohibition to fire 3,100 Somisa workers, but backed the company's authority to turn off the Maria Liliana blast furnace.

UOM lawyers had been waiting at the central courthouse building earlier last night for a ruling from the Labour Appeals Court, which would define whether or not that entity backs the measure implemented by Ruiz.

The anti-government CGT-Azopardo announced yesterday afternoon its intention of considering a national protest measure while urging labour leaders from across the country to "take a stand regarding the suffering of the Argentine workers."

According to labour sources, the CGT-Azopardo began analyzing the possibility of backing a national strike to support Somisa workers after receiving a telegram to that effect from Brunelli.

Through a communique signed by CGT-Azopardo Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini, the labour umbrella group announced that "we seek measures agreed upon by popular consensus."

Labor Minister Rodolfo Diaz stated in the meantime that as soon as "the legal situation is squared," the ministry will re-assume "all of its authority and return to playing a major role" in resolving the Somisa conflict.

"Just over a week ago I said there was no labour conflict," the official said. "Now there is but the Labour Ministry has yet to intervene" due to the labour injunction. [passage omitted]

Workers Accept New Offer

PY2710215091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Oct 91 p 17

[Excerpts] (DYN-NA)—Some 5,500 Somisa [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association] steel workers unaffected by government streamlining decided to return to work at 10 pm last night, while another 3,100 dismissed employees wait for labour leaders to resume negotiations tomorrow in search of a solution to the conflict.

Following a lengthy assembly held outside the San Nicolas plant yesterday afternoon, San Nicolas Metal Workers Union (UOM) Secretary Anibal Paez announced that the workers accepted a new offer from company authorities which includes a rotation of 2,000 jobs between suspended and non-suspended workers and full indemnity and subsidy payments.

Somisa authorities also extended until November 14 the registration deadline for the voluntary retirement programme, which allows for a 300-dollar monthly stipend and has had 400 takers to date.

These were the terms of the proposal discussed with workers during yesterday's mass assembly in which they voted to call off plans for a strike and return to work.

After all ballots had been tallied the UOM leadership came out ahead with 4,300 votes in favour of accepting the fresh offer, 93 in opposition and three abstentions. [passage omitted]

In spite of upping their offer, Somisa management underlined yesterday in a press release signed by [Somisa trustee Jorge] Triaca that the restructuring programme would continue and that when the voluntary retirement registration period expires "the enterprise will resort to legal means in order to achieve our objectives." [passage omitted]

Menem on Space Activities for Peaceful Purposes

PY2410172291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0114 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Oct (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem emphasized tonight his "determination" that Argentine space activities "always be carried out within a peaceful framework and with a social and scientific spirit to grant major well-being and knowledge to all countries."

Menem spoke at Government House during the installation ceremony for the National Space Activities Commission [Conae] Executive Board. Foreign Minister Guido di Tella; Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez; Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier General Jose Julia; Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Martin Bonnet; and Conae Chairman Jorge Saade attended the ceremony.

In his speech, Menem said that Argentina "was the first Latin American country and one of the world's leading sponsors to conduct space activities at a national level." He recalled that in 1951 scientists and experts from various fields formally created the Argentine Interplanetary Association.

He stressed that our planet's new prospect "has allowed humanity to start acknowledging the problems that are raised at the end of a century and at the beginning of a new one, especially those related to a quickly increasing population and one that seeks to develop and survive. It also allows mankind to train itself in order to stabilize and improve its standard of living."

He pointed out that space science and its implementation "is an important part of the technological and scientific activities that could generate valuable solutions," for which reason "I have decided that the Conae structures be reorganized to adapt it to the current requirements and responsibilities."

Menem stressed that Conae's direct responsibility to the Presidency of the nation "ratifies our determination to intensify the national activities and support them with adequate means."

He added: "The executive branch has decided to expand its bilateral, regional, and international relations because in most cases the magnitude of the subjects to be tackled transcends state borders."

The president also voiced his gratitude for "the lengthy and efficient task performed by the Argentine Air Force, and all national institutions linked to space activities" and added that "the effort to support Conae in the planning, coordinating, promotion, and executive actions deserve my sincere gratitude."

Menem ended by saying: "I wish to end this message expressing my desire that these space activities always be carried out within a peaceful framework and with a social and scientific spirit to grant major well-being and knowledge to all countries."

Government, Not Military, To Decide Promotions

PY2710215491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Oct 91 p 17

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—The government, for the first time, will decide who will be promoted in the Armed Forces without taking into account recommendations made by the military high command, a source who wishes to remain anonymous said yesterday.

"There are colonels that the military high command recommended to be promoted to generals and the government believes that they should remain being colonels to retire," the source said.

"There are also colonels that the government believe should be promoted to generals, but the military high command disagrees. And there are generals that the government wants to use for a specific purpose and the military high command believes they should occupy other positions."

President Carlos Menem will take three factors into account before promoting officers, the source said.

Menem will favour officers who supported the government during the bloody December 3 carapintada military uprising.

The president will also take into account an officer's military history and leadership qualities.

The government will also question candidates on their commitment to Argentina's insertion into the new world

order. The head of state also wants to know whether officers understand the administration's military privatization and rationalization policies, the source said.

At least 40 colonels have received their retirement notices as part of the government's rationalization policy to trim down costs in the military field. [passage omitted]

Cavallo on Ownership of Mineral Deposits

PY2410200691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Oct 91 p 3

[Excerpt] (DYN)—"A true federalism will be constituted with the transfer of YPF [Government Oil Deposits] to the oil-producing provinces," Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said yesterday. Approval of the draft bill transferring ownership of underground mineral deposits to the provinces "is a top priority," and of "vital importance for the government's economic programme," the economy minister added.

Cavallo took part in a meeting yesterday also attended by representatives of the Senate's Energy Commission, Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano, YPF Trustee Jose Estenssoro, SUPE [United Trade Union of State Petroleum Workers] state oil-workers union head Diego Ibanez, Chubut Justicialist Party Senator Cesar MacKarty and Mendoza Radical Party Senator Jose Genoud.

During the meeting, the oil draft bill was analysed. The government's aim is to promptly enact into law the oil draft bill presented before Congress on August 22. The directors of various oil companies scheduled to take part in the meeting at Government House yesterday were barred from participating at the last moment by Genoud.

"The meeting is for officials of the executive branch and legislators only," the Radical Senator said. The oil draft bill, besides transferring ownership of underground mineral deposits to the provinces, requests the latter and the central government to float on the Stock Exchange a minimum of 50 percent of YPF's stock of shares within a three year period as from December, 1992.

The draft bill allows the privatization of YPF assets such as refineries, vessels and storage facilities. [passage omitted]

Party Founder Withdraws From Active Leadership

PY2310222891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] (DYN)—Democratic Centre Union (UCeDe) Deputy Alvaro Alsogaray announced yesterday he will step back from active party leadership in order to spend more time in Congress. But he warned future UCeDe leaders against following extremist polices. Alsogaray, who founded the UCeDe in 1983, said he had finished a "cycle" in politics after 35 years as a liberal militant. "I want to give up my posts within the party immediately, but will talk to party leaders first to make sure the transfer of power is smooth," said Alsogaray. He also decried internal UCeDe wrangling which "is leading the party to destruction." In other comments, Alsogaray praised the government of President Carlos Menem for implementing reforms his party had always defended, like privatization and deregulation. "It is paradoxical that when our ideas are implemented, we lose votes in the elections," he added in reference to the UCeDe's trounce in this year's mid-term polls.

Soviet Envoy Seeks Loan; Views Oil for Cuba

PY2510205991 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 24 Oct 91 p 20

[Text] "No, no," [preceding two words in Russian] was the sharp political response by Vagit Yusufovich Alikporov, deputy minister of the Ministry of the Petroleum and Gas Industry of the USSR. He said this during a break in the World Oil Congress when he declined to comment on the continuation of Soviet oil supply for Cuba. In a previous news conference he also avoided the subject: "I would rather not talk about other countries," he said, answering the same question.

Alikporov arrived in Buenos Aires instead of Lev Chuvilov, head of the Soviet Ministry of the Petroleum and Gas Industry, which caused a last-minute change in the World Oil Congress agenda. Alikporov briefly outlined the structural changes in the Soviet oil policy in a stern manner.

He said that the USSR will request a $10 billion credit from the World Bank to develop the Ural, Volga, and Kazakhstan oil basins. "Our financial situation is difficult, but our oil will amply guarantee the loans," he said without giving further details.

The political risk—an appropriate concept of market philosophy—is proportional to the profit which the foreign companies can expect to obtain, he said. While the legal framework that will permit the arrival of foreign companies is under preparation, the USSR has already signed 60 joint venture [preceding two words in English] deals and is preparing an additional 60 mixed ventures. The initial point of the legal package will include the ownership of underground mineral deposits, a point which Alikporov did not explain.

"Central planned economy has restrained the industry," the deputy minister told the oil industry representatives of the world who gathered in the main hall.

Following the same line of thought, he referred to the Soviet lack of new technologies with which to explore the oil reserve zones in difficult climatic areas where 50 percent of Soviet hydrocarbon reserves are found. He gave more figures of the world's main oil producer: The USSR commissions 15,000 new oil wells per year. Between the 1940's to the 1980's, Soviet oil production increased from 18 million tons to 600 million tons. It is currently 500 million tons.

Alikporov was not the one to describe with the most harshness the future of the oil industry in the USSR. The harshest description was made by OPEC Secretary General Subroto who, a few days ago, suggested that everything depends on the position adopted by the Soviet provinces regarding the resources that exist in their territories. He said that this position will not be decided in Moscow.

Bolivia

U.S. Ambassador, Saavedra on Antinarcotics Fight

PY2510135091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The U.S. ambassador and the interior minister said that, so far, the antinarcotics fight in Bolivia has yielded positive results. [passage omitted]

Referring to a report by a U.S. congressional commission stating that the antinarcotics fight in certain countries such as Bolivia is a failure, Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno said that first of all we must find out the date of the report to be able to comment on it. He added that just because it was said by a U.S. congressman does not mean the contents of the report are true. The results of the antinarcotics fight in Bolivia are visible, he said. He added that it is true, however, that Bolivia needs more funds to fight the problem. Once we have more details on this report, we will comment on it to prevent speculation, he said.

[Begin recording] I have not met any of them, not even to exchange ideas and analyze opinions. This is why I believe that the report is rather old. The antinarcotics fight in Bolivia has had unquestionable results. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Army Expects U.S. Aid After Antidrug Operations

PY2710011091 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Oct 91 p 7

[Text] Following its initial participation in special drug enforcement operations, the Bolivian Army is expecting the U.S. Government to fulfill its part of the agreement set forth in Annex IIII [joint accord with the U.S. Government]. U.S. aid to the Bolivian Armed Forces amounts to $35 million, of which the Army will receive $14 million.

The U.S. aid will allow the battalions involved in drug enforcement to improve their mobility and troop transport facilities. Army Commander General Guido Sandoval acknowledged the limitations of the Manchego Regiment yesterday adding that these limitations will be resolved once U.S. aid arrives.

Gen. Sandoval said: "Personnel transportation is our main problem, but we understand that according to Annex III, we will receive U.S. assistance for transportation in November."

Ever since the Armed Forces officially expanded their involvement in drug enforcement, various social organizations have been saying that this was one of the conditions imposed by the United States to maintain its financial cooperation with Bolivia and, especially, with its Armed Forces. Now that Manchego Regiment troops have been committed to drug enforcement, the military leadership expects that the U.S. aid set forth in Annex III will arrive before the end of the year.

The Army commander reported that the Manchego Regiment units that carried out operations in Angel Sandoval and Velasco Provinces "are back home safe and sound."

It has been reported that after receiving the report from these units, the office of the commander in chief will evaluate the Army's first drug enforcement operation.

Gen. Sandoval announced that a detailed report on the actions that have been carried out will be released in coming days. Meanwhile, "I cannot venture an opinion," he said.

Energy Minister Views Plans Before U.S. Trip

PY2510202791 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Herbert Muller briefed the president on the achievements of his administration. [sentence as heard]

The energy minister stated that he has unexpectedly returned to Bolivia to consult with the president on new guidelines that will allow him to more effectively negotiate in Washington. Muller was scheduled to travel to Washington directly from Brazil. He said that because of important changes in financial prospects regarding this project, [not further identified] it was decided to study the situation and change the strategy that Bolivia will adopt before the financiers. He said:

[Begin recording] We have been informed that the Brazilian Government has authorized Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] to associate itself with state distributing companies and private companies to distribute gas. This is the first time in history that Petrobras and state governments will jointly distribute gas.

Moreover, Brazil has assured us that it will allow Bolivian gas to be marketed in Sao Paulo. Obviously, this will be subject to negotiations on price and volume.

I believe this is a very important political decision. Its implementation will obviously depend on what can be negotiated in terms of price and volume. [end recording]

Italian Firm, Cordepaz Start Development Plan

PY2610145091 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Italian firm Apra [expansion unknown] and the Development Corporation

of La Paz [Cordepaz] are jointly implementing a rural integration development program in the Araca Valley, Loayza Province, with a budget of $1 million. The purpose of the joint operation is to develop a pilot project for the development of other areas in La Paz Department.

The Association for Rural Cooperation in Africa and Latin America will provide $844,432, 67.5 percent of the total budget; Cordepaz will invest $247.515, or 20 percent; while the Araca Valley community must cover the difference and provide unskilled labor and local materials. According to the agreement, Apra will provide technicians for the project's development and training and supervise the works. The Italian firm also will organize the cultural center and grant technical assistance for the creation of a peasants cooperative.

Iturralde Advocates 'Peaceful' Changes in Cuba

PY2810114291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0011 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] La Paz, 26 Oct (EFE)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde said today that Bolivia should adjust to the changes in the world. He added that it should restructure its economic and political system to match the new conditions following the collapse of the communist bloc.

"The world has changed; we are all changing; and Cuba will also have to change little by little and in a peaceful manner," Iturralde said.

He said that in a recent telephone conversation with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President Jaime Paz Zamora expressed his concern about the situation in Cuba.

Army Antidrug Operations for 1991 Conclude

PY2610234691 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Oct 91 p 5

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Army will not participate in any further drug enforcement operations, at least for the remainder of this year. According to Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra, military actions for 1991 are over.

Thus, the first drug enforcement operation carried out by special Army units will also be the Army's last until next year. [passage omitted]

FELCN Gets New Regulations, Deputy Commander

PY2610113091 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno delivered today the new rules and regulations of the Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN] to the organization's top leaders. Saavedra also installed the new FELCN deputy commander and chief of staff. This job was entrusted to Colonel Einar Lopez Flores, a graduate of the Higher Police Academy.

Col. Lopez previously served as the El Alto departmental police chief; he was also a FELCN staff member in 1988 and head of the Fourth Police District in La Paz.

In a simple ceremony, Saavedra gave FELCN top officials and Gonzalo Torrico, Interior Ministry social defense under secretary, the new set of organizational regulations; the instruction manual; the internal rules and regulations; and the regulations concerning decorations and awards. Saavedra explained that, prior to the issuance of these rules and regulations, FELCN tended to operate according to the whims of its commanders, and now an effort will be made to apply order and method to the agency's operations.

Coca Growers To Oppose Forced Eradication

PY2610171091 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Civic Committee of Cochabamba has asked the government to drop plans to implement a coca plantation forced eradication plan in Cochabamba's tropical areas. The defense of coca leaf plantations is not only a regional but also a national issue, civic committee officials said to justify their opposition to the forced eradication program.

The government is committed to eradicating 7,000 hectares of coca plantations this year but voluntary programs did not achieve the expected results. Campesino Affairs Ministry officials have announced that a forced eradication program will be launched in a few more days. The announcement naturally has created concern among coca producers. Their leaders have announced that they reject and will resist the government program through the self-defense committees that were created for that purpose.

Brazil

Auction of Usiminas Shares Considered Successful

PY2410234191 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The auctioning of Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.] was carried out successfully at the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange. The company's shares were sold for $1.170 billion, almost 710 billion cruzeiros.

A total of 57 brokers from throughout the country, representing nine stock exchanges, participated in the auction.

At a price of 845 cruzeiros per lot of 1,000 shares, with a total of 980,386 lots, the shares were sold at the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange for $1.170 billion. This price

exceeded by almost 14 percent the reserve price established for the auction of the ordinary shares, at a ratio of 94 percent national capital to six percent foreign capital.

The Bank of Brazil Welfare Foundation and the Rio Doce Valley Company were the main purchasers. A total of 839,813,136,548 shares were sold for a total of 709.6 billion cruzeiros.

The auction ended at 1555, although it was suspended for 30 minutes while investors were identified and the remaining 2,186 lots of shares were allocated.

The financial settlement of the auction will be on 30 October, and the following day there will be an assembly to elect the company's new council.

BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development] president Eduardo Modiano and Francisco de Souza Dantas, the president of the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange, consider the results very satisfactory.

Modiano said that, with the sale of Usiminas, the government has substantially reduced its public debt and increased the already favorable expectations for the privatization of the Electromechanic Company, (Celma) on 1 November.

Infrastructure Minister Comments

PY2510021491 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana has stated that the auction of Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.] represents a victory for the Brazilian people.

[Begin Santana recording] With this, we virtually managed to begin the privatization program, and this is not only President Collor's and the federal government's victory, but it is a victory of the Brazilian people. [end recording]

President Collor said the entire country is winning with this auction. He said the privatization of Usiminas shows the openness and clarity with which the process was carried out.

[Begin Collor recording] The fact is that everyone participated in this process; everyone gave his opinion; and everything was decided democratically, and the entire country is profiting. The country is gaining more credibility and respect both internally and internationally. [end recording]

President Collor did not care much about the fact that the Rio Doce Valley Company acquired 15 percent of the Usiminas' shares because this company, he said, is one of the few that is working well in this country.

Economist Comments on Auction

PY2510022291 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Commentary by economist Joelmir Betting]

[Text] In fact, the success of the Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.] auction will accelerate the privatization program in Brazil as is happening today throughout the world.

This will happen even though the auction had a surprising outcome. The largest Usiminas purchasers were officials from two state-owned companies who used money from their foundations and private social security systems: the Bank of Brazil and Rio Doce Valley Company. They became the owners of 30 percent of Usiminas capital with voting rights [capital votante], not counting another 10 percent owned by the Usiminas employees themselves.

In other words, Usiminas will remain a Minas Gerais company. It will remain a Brazilian company because foreign capital's share in today's auction did not even reach 6 percent.

Demonstrations Against Auction

PY2410164691 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Disturbances have been reported in front of the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange. Less than one hour ago, demonstrators clashed with military police. Several people were injured.

The following is a report by Roberto Kovalick. [passage omitted]

This is the first incident here at Praza 15 in front of the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange. The noise you have just heard in the background was a shot.

People are hurling many stones. They are hitting many journalists. Many people are injured.

That was another bomb or a shot. People are hurling stones injuring many people at Praza 15 in front of the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange. [passage omitted]

No one knows the origin of these explosions. There are many stones being hurled and many shots are heard. The antiriot police are trying to repress the demonstrators.

The protest against the privatization of Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc] is now peaceful. The atmosphere right now at Praza 15 is much more calm.

A total of 14 people were injured. Of this total, five are journalists; four are military police, two are firemen, and three are military policemen [as heard].

Five military police columns have established a human barrier around this area to cordon off the area and avoid

more violence. The military police are wearing shields and helmets and carrying truncheons.

The demonstrators are now staging a protest march, carrying placards and shouting slogans. Further details on this will be provided by reporter Beatriz Thilman.

[Begin recording] The disturbances outside this building have not changed anything here inside. The atmosphere here is absolutely calm. Down there, we can see that the first businessmen to have expressed interest in purchasing Usiminas are starting to arrive for the auction.

Everyone here is very calm. Nothing has changed here inside. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further on Demonstrations

PY2510000991 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Report by Sonia Bridi]

[Text] Demonstrators opposing the privatization of state-owned companies attempted to disrupt the Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.] auction at the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange. They tried clashed with police and tried to break the security cordon.

The military police began before dawn to occupy the Praza 15 square where the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange building is located. The neighboring streets were cordoned off with iron barricades.

CUT [United Federation of Workers], CGT [General Federation of Workers], UNI [not further identified], PDT [Democratic Worker's Party], and PT [Workers Party] demonstrators also arrived early. They remained 50 meters from the stock exchange building and protested over the arrival of police reinforcements, namely the civilian police anti-riot squad and the bomb squad.

The demonstrators were unable get near the stock exchange building and so they marched through Rio de Janeiro's downtown area and then returned to the square.

Shortly after noon the demonstrators tried to knock down the barricades. A policeman was hit on the head by a stick and the riot began.

Reporter (Roberto Kovalick) followed the incident.

[Begin recording] This was the first incident here at Praza 15 in front of the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange. A shot was just heard. Many stones are being hurled. They are hitting journalists. Many people have already been injured. Many stones are being hurled. The anti-riot police are trying to stop the demonstrators. [end recording]

The police used dogs to stop the demonstrators. The barricade was knocked down. Policemen, journalists, and demonstrators were injured during the clash.

The police used tear gas canisters to control the riot. Many people were arrested.

The auction began at 1400 and the demonstrators regrouped at the square. A column of the military police anti-riot squad was deployed between the demonstrators and the stock exchange building. Nearly 800 policemen were deployed at that time at the square.

Shortly afterwards, the disturbances continued. The demonstrators tried to block a street next to the square but were stopped by the police. Many demonstrators used their shirts to cover their faces. They hurled stones at the anti-riot police. The anti-riot police responded with tear gas canisters. The demonstrators threw back the tear gas canisters launched by the police. More demonstrators were arrested. Another incident began. More attacks and more tear gas canisters followed.

In the end 81 people, including 41 policemen, were injured. At no time did the demonstrators manage to get near the stock exchange building.

The police managed to break up the riot 30 minutes after the conclusion of the auction.

Collor Criticizes Businessmen for Dismissals

PY2510233791 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor met today at Planalto Palace with Francisco Souza Dantas, the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange president, who gave the president the hammer used during the auction of the shares of Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.].

During the ceremony, the president delivered a speech in which he harshly criticized the businessmen who are dismissing personnel. Collor said that those businessmen have, in a cowardly way, refused to progress or to admit their own inability. He added that many of them have made huge fortunes with cheap money supplied by the BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development], the Banco do Brasil, and even the National Treasury.

Collor said that those businessmen merely criticize and demand because they are not concerned about Brazilian social problems, all they want is low interest and deregulated prices.

[Begin Collor recording] They criticize; they criticize; they criticize; they criticize; they criticize all the time; they criticize all the time! All they want is low interest and deregulated prices. Ha! That is what they want! Yet what is the alternative monetary policy that they propose? What is the alternative project that they propose? [end recording]

The president called upon those businessmen to strive and work.

[Begin Collor recording] Now, that, ahh... [changes thought] complaints by those who criticize what others have done, those who can only say it is wrong, it is wrong; or if they are women they cry to the four corners of the earth. Let us strive; let us work; let us try to promote competitiveness! [end recording]

Collor added that he will not yield to pressure, and that when the privileged class understands that Brazil has changed, they will realize that they have to take their woes to somebody else.

[Begin Collor recording] When those privileged people understand that Brazil has changed, and that power today is in the hands of a government that has on two occasions received the support of the ballot boxes; of a government that has always, always, been absolutely and entirely open to dialogue and understanding; of a government that will not yield to pressure or justification maneuvers—when they understand all this, they will realize that they have to take their woes to somebody else. [end recording]

The president also mentioned consultants who are paid in foreign currency to criticize the process of privatization.

[Begin Collor recording] It is amazing, for example, that while the people understand that denationalization is positive for our country, there are some economic sector consultants—who are paid in dollars by leading businessmen to release sinister reports on the Brazilian future—who are probably unaware of the meaning of the word denationalization. [end recording]

The president added that the privatization process is one of the main instruments in the Brazilian stabilization program.

[Begin Collor recording] The denationalization program is one of the main instruments in the ongoing stabilization process. This program is coupled with a new design for the Brazilian state. This new design removes state participation in areas in which it had previously engaged, like productive activities within the economy. [end recording]

President Collor announced that on 1 November he will submit to Congress a bill containing the first phase of fiscal reform.

Economic Official Criticizes Collectivism

PY2510171891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Economic Policy Secretary Roberto Macedo criticized today collectivism in Brazil. He admitted that the government has issued a lot of paper money, increasing inflation.

Macedo made this remark during a lecture in a seminar entitled: "Social Assistance Policy in Brazil," a seminar sponsored by the LBA [Brazilian Welfare Legion].

Roberto Macedo presented the principles of social policy and asked for society's support to see these principles transformed into effective actions.

[Begin recording] It is necessary to disseminate these ideas [words indistinct]. Support is required for this. Without such a support, these principles cannot be transformed into effective actions.

[Words indistinct] social policies and, in my opinion, my experience in surveys, my own experience in the government, also confirm this. [end recording]

The LBA-sponsored seminar continues on 25 October and should conclude at noon. Political scientists and professors from the entire country are participating in the seminar, discussing poverty and the role of social assistance in Brazil.

The seminar's goal is to enhance the discussion on the social assistance organization bill that is now in Congress.

Funds Released To Support Coffee Harvests

PY2410180391 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The government today released 125 billion cruzeiros to finance the coffee industry. Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira has authorized the release of 97.2 billion cruzeiros just for the 1991-92 harvest.

The beneficiaries of these resources will be producers, cooperatives, roasting industries, and exporters. The government will finance 60 percent of the overall amount to be sold within 180 days. The interest rate on the finance will be calculated at 9 percent annually plus TR [Referential Interest Rate].

The economy minister has also authorized the release of 27.9 billion cruzeiros for planting the 1992-93 crop. The cooperatives will receive these benefits which will also be financed at an interest rate of 9 percent annually plus TR. This is the same interest rate charged on small- and medium- sized rural farms. This finance will be made available in one year.

The economy minister has also decided to postpone for another year the exemption of tax on cocoa exports.

Germany's Kohl Hopeful on Medium-Term Investment

PY2610025091 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressed optimism today about the possibility of signing a medium-term accord guaranteeing German investment in Brazil, irrespective of the economic policy to be adopted by the Brazilian Government.

Kohl believes the Brazilian Constitution does not ban that type of accord, which could promote investment in

Brazil. Brazil has received $5.4 billion in German funds, the largest amount of German resources that a Latin American country has received thus far. Kohl said he and Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek addressed the issue and both agreed that the most difficult factor for signing such an accord is the fact that Brazil has not signed a similar agreement with another country.

Kohl said that German unification led the FRG to move closer to its partners—Brazil, among them. He stressed that his country is interested in cooperating with the Brazilian Government in various fields, such as the environment, science, and technology, and that it would also like to sign agreements promoting new investment.

Kohl said that the need for Latin America to achieve integration along the EEC framework in order to resolve its economic difficulties was high on the agenda in a discussion he had with President Fernando Collor.

The visitor said that commercial protectionism is the primary obstacle to be overcome at the GATT Uruguay Round. He said that he believes free trade is essential to all countries and that without free trade, there is always the danger of excessive bureaucracy, which is harmful to economic development.

Chancellor Kohl advocates a consensus solution for the GATT Uruguay Round, so both rich and developing countries can be favored. He said this solution should cover not only agricultural trade, but also matters such as intellectual property rights and textiles, among others.

Concerning the environment, Kohl said his country is particularly interested in helping Brazil preserve tropical forests. He said other countries should give stronger support to a master project for the preservation of forests, which was designed by the Brazilian Government with the help of the World Bank and the EEC.

Kohl stressed that when he takes over as president of the Group of 7 in January 1992, he will include the tropical forest preservation program, which he regards as wise and efficient, as a priority item on the Munich summit agenda.

Germany Releases $180 Million for Projects

PY2610110491 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] The German Government has released $180 million to Brazil. The money will be used for basic sanitation programs in northeastern Brazil and environmental projects in the Amazon region.

The German decision awakened Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek's hopes that the group of the world's richest seven countries—of which Germany is a member—will fulfill its promise to invest $1.5 billion in projects for the control and development of the Amazon region.

During an interview on the "National Magazine" program of the Radiobras [Brazilian Radio Broadcasting Company] Network, Rezek praised Germany's efforts to promote the implementation of environmental programs in Brazil.

[Begin recording] Germany is playing a mayor role as a Northern Hemisphere nation in a postindustrial stage, which has gone beyond mere declarations of love for nature. Germany has done what a country that has the capacity to help is expected to do, that is, it has financed bilateral self-supporting programs. [end recording]

The minister emphasized the importance of promoting environmental projects that can foster development without harming the environment.

Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Mercosur

PY2610022691 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 24 Oct 91 p 23

[Report by special correspondent Eleonora Gosman]

[Text] Brasilia—The Common Market of the South [Mercosur] will become reality; no one doubts this. In Brasilia, however, many people ask themselves if this hope will become reality by the deadline established by Presidents Fernando Collor de Mello and Carlos Menem: the last day of 1994. The people's current priority is to resolve their domestic problems, even though this may mean extending the deadline for the integration process. They do not say it aloud, but they acknowledge that Mercosur has moved to a strictly secondary stage in these current difficult times.

The Foreign Ministry diplomatically maintains that the integration process "is not at a standstill." Raul Castro, the Foreign Ministry official in charge of this subject, said: "The problems we have are so urgent that they do not leave us time for other problems." According to the diplomat: "The domestic situation now requires all our efforts, and this means we must implement certain policies—such as recently devaluating the cruzeiro—which harm Mercosur but which are essential to increase our hard currency reserves."

When the economy ministers of the four member countries meet on 3 November in Rio de Janeiro, the discussion will be very serious. Argentina will probably demand solutions to the fluctuations in the Brazilian exchange rate, which create trade imbalances. Brazil will also address some critical points: The current Argentine economic opening—especially in the field of capital goods—virtually annuls the preferential tariffs granted to Brazil.

However, Castro believes that all the difficulties relating to Mercosur can be solved through noncontroversial means.

[Gosman] Do you think integration will be attained by 1994 anyhow?

[Castro] Look, there is a political will to comply with the term, but no one can tell positively if it will be achieved.

Without doubt, the economic instability of Brazil complicates things. I think we can make progress in other fields, however; for example, by establishing a common external tariff. Such protection from third countries may be defined by sectors. Capital goods is a clear example. If we can implement this strategy, it will be a clear signal that Mercosur is advancing.

[Gosman] How did the Argentine economic opening hurt Brazil?

[Castro] I would not use the term hurt. It is obvious, however, that tariff preferences for Brazil will not have the desired effect if the Argentine market is opened to other countries by reducing tariffs on some industrial products to zero. We will take up this issue at the minister's meeting in Rio de Janeiro on 8 November.

[Gosman] What will you propose?

[Castro] One possible solution will be for the Argentine Government to increase tariffs on those goods in order to make the preferences work.

[Gosman] I beg your pardon, but it is not clear how the four partners can coordinate their economic policies in barely four years when the differences are so great.

[Castro] I think our policies have the same goal. We are all moving toward a single identical model characterized by privatizations, stability, and balanced fiscal accounts. The difference lies in the time needed by each state to reach that goal.

[Gosman] In any case and in light of the EEC experience, we have the impression that this integration was planned with a very tight schedule.

[Castro] I agree that the European integration process has been going on for 30 years, but many of us think that if we did not establish a deadline, Mercosur would have failed.

A Matter of Size

Castro said Mercosur is more important for Argentina than for Brazil. "It is a matter of size because, to you, integration means a market that is five times larger than your present one." That does not prevent you from making demands in favor of your country; for instance, when you criticize the Brazilian rejection of the safeguard system that Argentine entrepreneurs want to protect their industries from Brazilian imports.

"We are of the opinion that safeguards are not convenient in any way because the system could snowball into something hindering integration. If each productive industry asks for protection from imports from another Mercosur country the situation will become a great obstacle." Castro admits that it is difficult to sidestep the problem because the integration process is not consolidated, but we have to look for alternative solutions.

If Europe—with stable economies—needed 30 years to create a common market, it is difficult to imagine that we—with unstable economies—will need only four. Our current difficulties are a consequence of Brazilian instability; tomorrow's difficulties could stem from conflictive situations in other member countries.

Economy Secretary Departs for Japanese Talks

PY2410140891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0300 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Report by Cristina Indio]

[Text] Dorothea Werneck, the national economy secretary, departed for a 10-day visit to Japan on 22 October. During her stay in Japan, Werneck will meet government officials and businessmen. The main issues to be discussed in these meetings are quality and productivity.

Werneck said that many Japanese groups such as the Japanese Productivity Center and the Scholarship Association Abroad support the Brazilian quality and productivity program

In addition, the two countries are interested in investments and trade. Werneck is also scheduled to visit three Japanese factories that already have adopted the full-quality method that she has been studying with Brazilian businessmen.

Chile

Senator on U.S. Military Aid to Peru, Bolivia

PY2510141491 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 19 Oct 91 p 13

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Valparaiso—National Renewal Senator Julio Lagos said yesterday: "The budget earmarked in principle for the Armed Forces really corresponds to their basic needs. It does not increase their potential not does it encourage an arms race." He added that the United States prioritizes military aid to Peru and Bolivia under the pretext of helping them in the antidrug-trafficking struggle.

Sen. Lagos, from the First Region, said that given the location of his region, it is particularly susceptible to becoming an important and large-scale drug-trafficking center or route.

Any effort, he said, to reduce the Armed Forces' current limited resources means that they will be forced to reduce their presence in the First Region, with consequences that are easy to guess.

Lagos said that the "great aid that the U.S. Government has given Peru and Bolivia under the pretext of helping them in the antidrug-trafficking struggle should be a reason for general concern. Apart from that military aid, which is greater than $100 million, we must take into

consideration the recent "mutual cooperation" agreements signed between the Armed Forces of Bolivia and Peru. It would be naive and irresponsible to think that Peru and Bolivia will use all this war materiel only in the antinarcotics struggle. This war materiel, Lagos stressed, represents a real threat to our national security that we cannot ignore."

Sen. Lagos labeled as a farce "the campaign that is being carried out to convince the public that it is necessary to "take away" part of the limited Armed Forces budget to use it in social welfare programs. To rob Peter to pay Paul is not the solution," Lagos said.

Lagos recalled that his party had supported tax reform to finance a large social welfare program. The resources exist, but if concrete results cannot be seen it is because of this administration's lack of efficiency. The National Renewal Party has insisted on the need to privatize public companies to solve the problem of the poor, Lagos stated.

"To reduce the military budget based on the thought that the other countries of the region will do the same is a foolish and irresponsible gesture," Lagos said, adding that "the presence of a well-equipped Armed Forces with modern materiel and with real deterrent capability does not favor either the military or Pinochet; it favors the whole country because it represents the best guarantee for national security."

Environment Agreement With U.S May Be Signed

PY2610143891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] An important agreement related to the preservation of the environment may be signed by the United States and Chile by the end of this year.

The program, which falls within the framework of the Americas Initiative proposed by President George Bush, foresees the creation of a fund earmarked to solve specific environmental problems such as the contamination of Chilean waters.

In order to establish grounds for the agreement, official Chilean and U.S. representatives held their third and last meeting at the Finance Ministry.

Chilean delegation chief Rafael Asenjo explained that the resources for the fund will come from the interest on the official Chilean foreign debt, which will be forgiven for this specific purpose.

It should be recalled that the Chilean debt interest amounts to $23 million and is due in 1995.

Asenjo explained that this fund will be used in various areas.

[Begin recording] [Asenjo] These funds will be used to treat water; for activities related to natural areas; and for environmental education programs. In general terms, it is a broad program of activities linked to the preservation of the environment.

[Unidentified journalist] [question indistinct]

[Asenjo] No, the problem of the ozone layer and overall environmental problems are not included. This fund's main objective is to tackle specific problems at a regional, district level in order to solve specific and concrete environmental problems. This agreement does not take into account overall problems, due to the amount of money and number of people involved. [end recording]

Asenjo noted that with these negotiations, Chile is one of the first countries to materialize with concrete initiatives President Bush's Plan for the Americas in the environmental field, through the fund that will be administered by the two governments.

Companies Form Joint Ventures in Poland

PY2510154891 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 16 Oct 91 p B18

[Summary] Polish Deputy Minister of Economic Relations Zbigniew Okonski [name as published] reported yesterday that two Chilean companies—Chile Trading Corporation and Ancor—already have created joint ventures [preceding two words in English] with Polish companies. He said that these companies will invest in construction, fast-food restaurants, and the refining of copper. Okonski made an official three-day visit to the country during which he met government officials and businessmen.

Okonski also signed yesterday with Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma a commercial agreement designed to regulate trade relations and to create basic structures for the development of joint investments. The agreement also seeks to facilitate trade between the two countries and the participation of Chilean companies in Polish trade fairs.

Center To Promote Foreign Investments Started

PY2510155491 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Corfo [Production Development Corporation] will become a link between small- and medium-size businesses and foreign investments. The Corfo Investment Promotion Center was officially launched today during a ceremony in La Moneda Palace headed by the president of the Republic. Corfo Deputy Chairman Rene Abeliuk said that authorized foreign investments in 1991 amount to $3 billion.

[Begin Abeliuk recording] The explanation for this demonstration of confidence by foreign investors lies in the fact that the government has taken clear and solid steps to create a basic atmosphere of consensus in the political, economic, and social fields. This is reflected in the

stability of the main economic indicators and in the general acceptance of a system that basically is a social market economy. [end recording]

Corfo's main objective will be to help establish joint associations between Chilean businessmen and foreign partners by providing legal and financial counseling, granting credits of up to 50 percent for feasibility studies, obtaining contributions for risk capital through national and foreign financial institutions, and granting complementary credits. Once an agreement is reached between Chilean and foreign businessmen, Corfo will withdraw from the negotiations.

Amendment Recognizing Indian Nations Signed

PY2510113891 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 9 Oct 91 p 7

[Excerpt] President Patricio Aylwin signed a constitutional amendment project recognizing the existence of Indian nations as part of the Chilean nation.

The chief of state also signed the new Indian Law draft bill meant to protect and sponsor the Indians.

The president signed these documents during a ceremony in La Moneda Palace with the presence of the cabinet, congressmen, Indian leaders, and other representatives.

The only official to give a speech was Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa, who stressed that the law on Indian matters attends to the needs and aspirations of the Indians. [passage omitted]

MIR Members Join Arrate's Socialist Party

PY2510143891 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] More than 50 members of the political MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] resigned from their movement and joined the Socialist Party headed by Jorge Arrate. The new Socialist Party members are headed by former MIR Central Committee members Alvaro Ahumada, Carlos Ruiz, Alvaro Diaz, and former MIR spokesman Roberto Moreno. Moreno explained the decision they made:

[Begin recording] We think that at this stage MIR is lacking social and institutional links with the appropriate mass and intellectual class in order to offer solutions to the current problems of the people. We also think that, currently, such links or characteristics are more or less present in the Socialist Party, where we have found an opportunity to generate a new socialist project for Chilean society through a modern process that projects itself into the future. [end recording]

In turn, MIR leader Patricio Rivas acknowledged that the resignation of the 50 MIR members represents a blow to the movement. However, he said, their resignation will not produce a chain reaction and no more members will abandon the movement. When asked about the upcoming municipal elections, Rivas said that MIR will support the candidates that will best represent it, be they Socialists or Communists, beside their own MIR candidates.

However, Moreno reported that in the last plenum the MIR Central Committee decided to join the Communist Party list in the next municipal elections and to present MIR candidates as independents.

Newly Created Party To Join Opposition

PY2510144291 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Oct 91 p C2

[Text] Leaders of the People's Socialist Party, which includes ultra-left PS [Socialist Party] dissidents, have announced the People's Socialist Party's decision to create an opposition to the government that will come from social movements.

Lautaro Labbe and Eduardo Gutierrez, People's Socialist Party's executive board members, said they agree with the groups that say that the Coalition Alliance Government is becoming "increasingly detached from the social bases, the majority of which elected it."

Labbe and Gutierrez said: "When the same neoliberal economic model continues being implemented, impunity for human rights violations is imposed, and there still are 84 'political prisoners' in the penitentiaries, the government must not be surprised by its detachment and isolation from the people."

The leaders explained that during the People's Socialist Party's plenum that was held a few days ago an agreement was reached to create an opposition trend called Political-Social Movement that is materializing through the formation of a "classist trade union trend," called Trade Union Autonomy, within the CUT [United Labor Federation].

Labbe and Gutierrez added that this movement is surfacing in various areas through popular town meetings where the problems of each community are discussed.

Energy Minister Comments on Hydroelectric Plant

PY2610013891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Report by Maria Angelica Rodriguez]

[Excerpts] President Patricio Aylwin called the Alfalfal hydroelectric plant a very important contribution to Chilean progress. The first stage of the plant, which is now being put into operation, cost $305 million. In a speech delivered at the dedication ceremony, Alfalfal board chairman Bruno Filippi said that the stability of institutions and of custom fees have been fundamental in convincing companies such as (?Chistemeres) to finance huge, complex projects like Alfalfal. [passage omitted]

Energy Minister Jaime Toha asserted that the Alfalfal, (?Camutillar), and Pehuenche plants will cover Chilean electricity needs for the next few years. He added that this could only be achieved in an atmosphere of confidence and coordination between the private sector and government.

[Begin Toha recording] The confidence in our economy has made it possible to plan and obtain ever-increasing public and private investment in various areas. This challenge represents the implementation of projects totalling $4.5 billion until the year 2000. Projects with a cost of over $1.2 billion are already being implemented. [end recording]

The new Alfalfal hydroelectric plant, which will generate electricity for the central interconnected system, can produce an average of 900 kilowatt/hour a year. The plant is on the Upper Colorado River, an arm of the Maipo River.

Economic Activity Monthly Index Figures Reported

PY2510175091 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 Oct 91 pp B1, B3

[Summary] Central Bank Studies Director Ricardo French-Davis reported that the Economic Activity Monthly Index [Indice Mensual de Actividad Economica—Imacec] increased 3.3 percent from August 1990 to August 1991 and that, so far this year, the increase already totals 4.5 percent. He added that, despite strikes, mining activities represent 8 percent of the Imacec.

French-Davis also reported that, from January to September, the trade surplus totaled $1.536 billion because Chile exported $6.753 billion and imported $5.741 billion [figures as published].

Colombia

Reportage on Legislative Election Activities

Bomb Attacks in Medellin

PA2510160291 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Medellin, Antioquia Department—Local authorities have ordered intensive operations and special surveillance at all political party headquarters, following bomb attacks carried out early this morning against four political parties. Popular militias claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks. Police and Army personnel will reinforce patrolling operations to ensure that the department's residents will be able to vote on Sunday, 27 October.

Further on Bomb Explosions

PA2510215191 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Report by Jaime Neira]

[Text] Early this morning, several medium-range bombs exploded at the headquarters of four political parties in Medellin, Antioquia Department. Although the damage was extensive, no injuries were reported. The first bomb exploded at the campaign headquarters of Fabio Valencia Cocio, Social Conservative Party candidate for senator, destroying the doors and windows of the building.

[Begin Valencia recording] The terrorists want to destabilize the system and create confusion and chaos. They also want to discourage people from voting on 27 October. [end recording]

A few hours later, a second bomb exploded at the campaign headquarters of Evilio Ramirez, Liberal candidate for governor. At 0400, a third bomb damaged the entrance of the campaign headquarters of Jairo Ortega Ramirez, Liberal candidate for senator. He was not injured because he was in the back area of the building. A fourth bomb exploded at the same time, destroying the campaign headquarters of Cesar Perez Garcia, Liberal candidate for congress.

Deaths in Vehicle Ambush

PA2810023991 Paris AFP in Spanish 0056 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 27 Oct (AFP)—Three persons were killed, three were wounded, and three were reported missing today in the southeastern part of Colombia when a vehicle that was carrying election returns was attacked by guerrillas, Meta Department authorities have reported.

The ambush, attributed to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), occurred near Lejanias. The rebels blew up the vehicle in which the delegate of the National Civil Registry Office was traveling with several policemen.

The driver and two policemen were killed, three policemen were wounded, and two policemen and the delegate were reported missing. The ballots, which had been cast in La Vereda Cajayal (village), were also lost.

According to Governor Eduardo Fernandez, the Army has deployed troops from Villavicencio, the capital of Meta, in pursuit of the rebels.

This is the most serious incident that has occurred on election day when the Colombian people were to elect 102 senators and 161 representatives to Congress and 27 departmental governors.

After the polls closed in San Vicente, in the rural region of Jamundi, Valle Department, in the western part of the country, snipers apparently linked with the guerrillas harassed members of a police post without incident.

Due to guerrilla threats, elections were suspended in a remote part of Bolivar Department in the northern region where there was going to be a single table for 61 registered voters. has

Government Reports 'Complete Calm'

PA2710193991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1808 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 27 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian Government has reported total normalcy at the various polling sites five hours after the voting began to elect the Congress and governors.

In a news conference, Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana said that except for some isolated incidents by members of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB) in northeastern Colombia, the elections are taking place "in a climate of complete calm."

Early this morning, guerrillas attacked a police patrol in Arauca Department, on the border with Venezuela, killing five policemen and wounding four others. In the town of Malambo, Atlantico Department, guerrillas of the Army of National Liberation (ELN) threw tacks on a road to prevent voters from going to the polling sites. In Santa Rosa, Bolivar Department, ELN rebels stole ballot boxes, while in Antioquia Department, a soldier died in a search and control operation.

The elections to elect 102 senators, 161 representatives and 27 governors are being held without any problems in the country's 1,022 municipalities, although there is a marked abstentionism, a survey by NOTIMEX has confirmed.

The polls, which opened at 0730, are being watched by more than 70,000 members of the Army and police to prevent possible attacks by the guerrillas.

Legislative Elections End

PA2710220191 Paris AFP in Spanish 2103 GMT 27 Oct 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 27 Oct (AFP)—At 1600 (2100 GMT) on 27 October, polls closed in Colombia after eight and one-half hours of voting to elect governors and representatives to the Congress.

The voting went smoothly throughout the country, but was marked by apathy among the 15 million Colombians who were eligible to vote, most polling places reported.

Commander Interviewed on Recent FARC Attack

PA2410232791 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with General Gustavo Pardo Ariza, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade, by unidentified reporter, both in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] The Fifth Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] has attacked a mobile antiguerrilla unit attached to the 4th Infantry Brigade headquartered in Antioquia. The fighting occurred from 1900 to 0400 and resulted in the death of six subversives and four were taken prisoner. Four soldiers were injured and a sizable quantity of war materiel was seized. We have General Pardo on the telephone. Good morning, Gen. Pardo.

[Pardo] Good morning. Special greetings to you and all listeners of Emisoras Caracol.

[Reporter] What is the meaning of this new attack by the guerrillas now that the peace talks are going to be resumed in Caracas?

[Pardo] Maybe you have the clearest possible explanation; however, approximately 100 bandits of FARC's fifth gang attacked and attempted to encircle Nutibara Battalion troops in the Murindo Municipality with the results that you mentioned. It is significant, however, that the rebels do one thing in one place and a very different one elsewhere to gain nationwide publicity. In this instance, the rebels failed to understand that these troops are highly trained and determined to defend the Colombian democratic system, which becomes purer and greater every day and makes it possible for Colombians to live better.

[Reporter] Does fighting generally occur at the location where these clashes occurred?

[Pardo] Murindo is a faraway locality in Antioquia Department, very close to the border with Choco Department. This is normally a peaceful region. No subversives have been reported to be stationed there. We have to understand, however, that bandits can easily establish themselves in a place like this precisely because of its isolation.

[Reporter] We understand that there was a great difference between the number of soldiers in the mobile unit and the number of guerrillas, who outnumbered the soldiers three to one.

[Pardo] Yes, approximately 36 soldiers were attacked by about 100 bandits, as I said before.

[Reporter] What is the security situation now that the 27 October elections in Antioquia Department are imminent?

[Pardo] With the exception of the unfortunate incident on 22 October, there is peace in the area. People are willing to participate in the elections. There is one exception, however: Guadalupe, where several political leaders are trying to dissuade voters from participating in the elections. These leaders are demanding the reopening of the Agrarian Bank, which suspended operations because it was attacked and its building destroyed by FARC's 36th gang. Consequently, this branch of the Agrarian Bank was closed. Several local politicians are

urging the people not to vote if the departmental government does not reopen the Agrarian Bank. We are taking the necessary measures to guarantee the free exercise of the right to vote by those citizens wishing to do so.

Internal Struggle in Medellin Cartel Reported

PA2810043591 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Oct 91 pp 1A, 8A

[Text] The assassination of Jairo de Jesus Mejia Ramirez—known as "J.M.," an important Medellin Cartel drug trafficker—as he led a cavalcade on 12 October in Cartagena, has uncovered a struggle for power that has began among members of that organization following the arrest of Dandenys Munoz Mosquera, "La Quica," in New York.

This was established by the police intelligence services in Bolivar Department, following an investigation that revealed that "J.M."—the number three man in the new Medellin Cartel structure—lent Munoz the San Sebastian cabins, located near Medellin, to use as his last hideout before leaving the country.

The investigations carried out in Bolivar Department reveal that "La Quica" and an undetermined number of gunmen remained there while preparing the last details of his trip to the United States.

The intelligence services said that the drug trafficker's death, perpetrated by hired gunmen at 1800 on 12 October, in the Bocagrande sector, also caused a financial crisis within the cartel because Mejia controlled the cocaine shipments for drug traffickers in Antioquia Department's capital.

The secret information indicated that the bands fighting against each other following "La Quica's" arrest are led by Carlos Arcila, alias "Pepe" or "Francisco," and Kiko Moncada, members of the Medellin Cartel; and Samuel Alarcon and David Iglesias, who control the organization's contacts on the Atlantic Coast.

The same source indicated that Arcila is the man who handles the money to pay the pilots, small airplanes, and landing strips that are controlled by Alarcon in Atlantico, Bolivar, and Magdalena Departments.

According to the investigators, these two men lead a group of traffickers known as Cesar Echeverry, "Pacho" Mejia, Carlos Vega, Diego Hoyos, and a man identified as "Mickey."

Referring to Alarcon, the cartel's liaison on the Atlantic Coast, the intelligence services have established that he has worked for the organization since 1980, handling cocaine shipments through the Colombia-Panama-United States route.

Until approximately one month ago, Alarcon and a group of men, including David Iglesias, Abraham Chalela, and two men known as "Nano" and "Chin Chin," controlled the cartel's drug air route which began at La Guajira.

Confidential information obtained through a technical intelligence system indicates that his protection was paid by Medellin Cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria until approximately two weeks ago.

The investigations indicate that, following "La Quica's" arrest in New York, the drug lord immediately ordered the removal of the group of paid gunmen who comprised Alarcon's security corps.

Experts in the struggle against the drug cartels have indicated that Alarcon is now in the Medellin Cartel's sights and that he has sought shelter in Barranquilla.

The murder of Mejia, owner of the Real hotel chain in Colombia, with installations in Pereira, San Andres, Medellin, Tolu, and La Pintada, indicates that the cartel is now after the men who were reportedly involved in passing the information that resulted in the arrest of the cartel's chief terrorist.

The intelligence services have established that Mejia was the Medellin Cartel's third most trusted man, after Arcila and Moncada, and he owned the Angel jewelry shops.

A source indicated that his security was handled by a retired National Navy major, whose surname was Ariza and who handled a group of 15 bodyguards.

The authorities have indicated that Mejia was the owner of Mejia Investments, located at No. 3-98 El Poblado Avenue in Medellin, as well as three big farms in the municipalities of Turbaco (Bolivar), La Estrella (Antioquia), and San Jeronimo (Antioquia).

His transportation fleet was comprised of two armored Mercedes Benz sedans, three Toyota station wagons, five sports cars, five four-wheel-drive vehicles, one yacht, and two small airplanes for his personal trips.

The drug trafficker also owned a dealership of four-wheel-drive Mitsubishi vehicles, a used-car business, and several apartments in Bocagrande and Castillo Grande, located in an exclusive Cartagena neighborhood.

Referring to Mejia's death, the authorities reported that he was participating in a cavalcade to celebrate Columbus Day when a still undetermined number of men got out of two Toyota station wagons and indiscriminately opened fire on the group.

Banking Sector Rejects Money Laundering Charges

PA2710152891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2005 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 26 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Colombia must ask the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for "specific proof" of Colombian businessmen's involvement in the laundering of $1.7 billion from drug trafficking.

As Javier Fernandez, president of the National Association of Financial Institutions, pointed out; "We cannot allow Colombia to be used as a scapegoat because of the United States' failures and absurd policies, which indirectly foster large-scale drug trafficking."

During the Latin American meeting of bank security experts in Santa Fe de Bogota on 24 October, Greg Passic, the DEA's chief of financial operations, said that prominent Colombian businessmen had "served as figureheads" so that the Medellin Cartel could launder $1.7 billion. Passic said that following the assassination of Luis Carlos Galan, the ruling Liberal Party's presidential candidate in August 1989, the organization headed by Pablo Escobar Gaviria "made intelligent moves in the U.S. financial system" under the guise of "businessmen with good reputations."

"It is a serious matter for the DEA to level this type of general accusation" Fernandez said, while demanding specific proof regarding the individuals implicated in the illegal activity. He added: "It is the Colombian Government's duty to verify the allegations and to ask the U.S. authorities for the requisite information to explain the situation."

Fernandez admitted that there is "a very great risk" that the drug traffickers will attempt to bring dollars into the country and launder them." He gave assurances that the Colombian banking system's controls "are very strict" and could prevent this from happening. He said: "It is inadmissible to cast a shadow of doubt over Colombian businessmen in such a general manner," adding that "it is highly improbable" that large quantities of dollars are being laundered in Colombia as the DEA reports. Fernandez said that the national banks "have been very conservative in managing their foreign exchange."

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Meets Russian Delegation

PY2610133291 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Oct 91 p 8

[All Russian names as published]

[Text] Members of a Russian delegation who are visiting our country told Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken yesterday that their country is interested in establishing diplomatic relations with Paraguay as soon as possible. Mikhail Gusman, who heads the delegation, conveyed President Yeltsin's gratitude for the position taken by the Paraguayan Government during the August coup.

Sergey Trofimon and Aleksandr Kondyakov, leaders of Soviet youth organizations; Pavel Gusev, head of the Moscow Union of Journalists; and Mikhail Gusman, who represents the Russian Government, yesterday met with Foreign Minister Frutos to convey to him their people's gratitude for the message of support President Rodriguez sent to Yeltsin for the latter's decision to resist the coup attempt in August.

They said that their country and Paraguay would formally establish diplomatic relations next year.

Meets With German Chancellor Kohl

PY2410023691 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Oct 91 p 12

[By special correspondents Cesar Omar Ferreira and Oscar Silva]

[Excerpt] President Andres Rodriguez this morning sent a special note to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl through Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken. In his note, Rodriguez greeted Kohl on the occasion of his visit to Itaipu hydroelectric dam and thanked him for German friendship and cooperation with Paraguay. Rodriguez also reiterated his permanent friendship with unified Germany.

Frutos Vaesken said he held a protocol meeting with Kohl to convey his satisfaction with Kohl's visit to Itaipu dam and his thanks for German assistance to Paraguay.

He said they discussed bilateral relations without focusing on any specific matter. He added that negotiations with Germany on opening more channels of cooperation are already under way. Regarding this, he said that the drafting of an agreement on investment guarantees similar to that recently signed with Great Britain is being analyzed. [passage omitted]

Peru

Vice President on Recall of Panamanian Official

PY2510204191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0452 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Lima, 24 Oct (EFE)— Peruvian First Vice President Maximo San Roman, who is currently in charge of the Presidency because of President Alberto Fujimori's absence, said today that the recalling of Panamanian Ambassador to Peru Gerardo Arias is a "sovereign decision" of that country.

According to reports datelined Panama, the decision today to recall the Panamanian ambassador was to protest over the escape of two assistants of former Panamanian "strongman" Manuel Antonio Noriega, who had sought asylum in Peru and whose extradition had been requested by Panama. They are charged with murdering 17 military officers in October 1989.

During a news conference, San Roman said that Peru will study the consequences of the Panamanian decision, adding that the Peruvian Foreign Ministry will "in due time" express its position on the case.

San Roman added that he hopes the case will not weaken Peruvian-Panamanian relations.

"We should try to reach understanding through dialogue. We should continue to talk," San Roman said. [passage omitted]

Envoy Travels to Panama To Explain

PA2610214191 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Text] The government decided today to send diplomatic envoy Luis Solari Tudela to Panama to try to resolve the problem that has resulted from by the escape of two Panamanian military officers who had been granted asylum in Lima. Solari was instructed to explain the situation to the Panamanian Government.

Ecuador 'Flooded' Border With Inaccurate Texts

PA2510201391 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] We have a very serious piece of information here. Ecuador has flooded Peru with approximately 5 million school textbooks that include inaccurate maps of Peruvian territory. PPC [Popular Cristian Party] Deputy Antero Flores Araoz presented these charges and copies of the textbooks to the Chamber of Deputies. Flores called for the immediate intervention of the Foreign and Education Ministries in this matter.

[Begin Flores recording] I have requested that authorities of the central government stop the shipments, both legal and illegal, of workbooks from Ecuador that have inaccurate maps of Peru. The departments of Tumbes, Cajamarca, and Loreto as far as the city of Quito appear on these maps as belonging to Ecuador. The workbooks also display the Ecuadoran anthem, coat of arms, and flag instead of the Peruvian flag, anthem, shield, and accurate map of our country. This is humiliating.

It seems there are approximately 5 million of these workbooks circulating in the border area and in northern departments. They are sold at prices lower than those for Ecuadoran workbooks. The people buy them because of this and not because they lack patriotism. However, this is very harmful for our children. Our students have to see and study our map, anthem, and flag, not foreign emblems.

The matter gets still worse. Not only are these workbooks circulating in our country, but there are textbooks with inaccurate Peruvian maps as well. One of them is an Ecuadoran book that does not indicate whether it is a history or geography book, but it has a general map with part of our territory cut off. This textbook is being used by Peruvian students. An Ecuadoran textbook, which includes an inaccurate Peruvian map has also been used in our social science courses. This is just plain humiliating and it has to be...

[Reporter, interrupting] Who is responsible for allowing these books and workbooks to enter the country?

[Flores] I believe several offices are involved: Customs; the Education Ministry; the Foreign Ministry, to a certain extent; and the prefectures, which are under the Interior Ministry.

There is an old 1985 norm—a supreme decree—that bans the circulation and importation of such textbooks. However, the decree was not published in the official newspaper El Peruano. Also, the current government, based on the authorization that has been given to it, issued two legislative bills to open foreign trade and allow imports, but they do not exclude such textbooks. This, apparently, makes the book shipments legal. Thus, on 25 October, we presented a bill that bans the importation of textbooks that contain inaccurate maps of Peru, and impedes their marketing, promotion, and traffic. [end recording]

Polish Preferences for Exports Reinstated

PY2410140891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1906 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Lima, 23 Oct (ANDINA)—Beginning next year Peru will rejoin the Polish general system of preferences. Thus, the Polish market will be reopened on preferential terms to Peruvian export products.

The Polish Government informed the Peruvian Foreign Ministry of its decision, which was brought about by actions taken by the Foreign Ministry Economic Promotion Directorate and the Peruvian embassies in Geneva and Warsaw.

As is known, all Peruvian export products have been excluded from Polish preferential trade benefits since last year because the statistics used by the Warsaw Government were based on foreign currency exchange variations that then prevailed in our country.

Those economic indicators were seriously distorted and did not reflect the facts about Peruvian production.

Army Raids Settlement, Confiscates Arsenal

PA2810043791 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Oct 91

[Report by Jose Luis Araujo]

[Text] Before dawn this morning Army troops raided the Los Olivos de Pro settlement, which belongs to the Confraternidad Project led by Luis Chito Rios.

The Army confiscated 10 9-mm bullets; 18 6.35-mm bullets; 9 .38- caliber bullets; and 25 12-gauge shells with homemade cases. This materiel was found in Block H, Lot No. 18, in the A sector. The arsenal belongs to Jose Machuca, whose whereabouts is unknown.

According to military sources, approximately 30 people were arrested. One person known by the alias of Puma was killed when he attacked a captain who found a Smith and Wesson revolver and a pineapple type grenade in the

man's home. This man was an assistant to the well-known land speculator Luis Chito Rios. A young woman who had no identification was wounded. Area residents told us that, although the Army committed abuses, they supported these raids.

The commander in charge of the operation said that community work will be done 2-8 November and that the Army will remain in the area one month to ensure residents' safety.

[Begin recording of unidentified woman] This is no way to impart justice. Why are our innocent men taken away? There are many women over there asking for help; please let them go. The Army suddenly enters our homes and drags us all out, including our children, as if we were rags. They beat us as if we were animals. [end recording]

Shining Path Rebels Killed, Peasants Rescued

PA2710033191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1723 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Lima, 25 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Approximately 38 guerrilla fighters were killed in Peru's central jungle area in two fierce clashes during which more than 50 peasants who had been kidnapped by the Shining Path were rescued, official sources reported today.

The political-military command of the Mantaro Front, located on the edge of the jungle in central Andean Junin Department, reported that military patrols recently located Shining Path bases where local people were being held prisoners.

Several contingents of the Army's 31st Infantry Division participated in the antisubversive operations that were carried out in Satipo and Chanchamayo Provinces. The sources said that 29 Shining Path members were killed in the zone of Mision Cutuvireni, adding that 35 peasants and 15 settlers were rescued and weapons and subversive propaganda were seized.

Nine guerrilla fighters were also killed in Esmeralda Valley, located in Satipo Province, where the military rescued 18 peasants.

The Mantaro Front command said that approximately 1,800 peasants have been rescued from subversive forces' camps that were destroyed by the Armed Forces.

Mision Cutuvireni and the Emerald Valley are located within the Ene River's Central Valley, a zone under Shining Path control since last year.

The Peruvian Army has invited several local media representatives to visit the towns where the counterinsurgency operations were carried out this week.

Another operation was carried out today with combined Army and police forces in a northern Lima neighborhood. An alleged rebel was killed and more than 30 persons were arrested and charged with being members of armed groups. Radio Programas del Peru reported that the government forces seized propaganda belonging to an unidentified subversive group during the action, which occurred in Lima's Los Olivos District.

Shining Path Reportedly Kills Two Officials

PA2510162591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2059 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Lima, 24 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Two municipal officials from the Department of Junin, in the central Andean region, were killed by alleged Shining Path guerrillas, police reported today.

A column of Shining Path guerrillas raided on 23 October the remote District of Huancani, 40 km north of Huancayo, capital of Junin Department, looking for officials of the community. The rebels accused the community officials of collaborating with the counterinsurgency military forces.

The rebels detained Huancani Mayor Wilfredo Rojas Parra, 30, and Governor Godofredo Marin Vega, 50, who are both members of the rightist Popular Christian Party [PPC], and later murdered them at the main square, police indicated.

Other district authorities managed to escape by hiding in the houses of their neighbors while they were being sought, the source added.

Meanwhile, nine-year-old Jorge Mayta Suxo died this morning from the wounds that he sustained after stepping on a mine, which had been placed at the base of a high voltage tower in the heavily- populated District of San Juan de Miraflores in Lima.

Mayta, who resided in the shantytown "German Democratic Republic," was persuaded by an alleged guerrilla to verify the existence of the mines at the tower, a measure that is taken to prevent sabotage.

This is the second case in which a minor has been used as a "decoy" by the Shining Path. In 1986, a 14-year-old boy died when a dynamite charge that he was supposed to place at a police station exploded in his hands.

More than 1,000 Peruvian children have been killed as a result of the political violence since the violence first erupted in the country 11 years ago, according to official organizations.

Roundup of Terrorist Activities Reported

PY2510190791

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on terrorist activities in Peru compiled from Peruvian papers published between 16 October and 20 October. Publication information is given in parentheses after each item.

A Shining Path command headed by a woman has dynamited the Ana Harvis soup kitchen in San Pedro Hill, in El Agustino. The facility provided food for 150 poor families in the area. On 10 September the Shining

Path dynamited a storage center that supplied 90 soup kitchens in Villa El Salvador. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 16 Oct 91 p A8)

Two terrorists who have spent several years in Cuzco prisons and who were released last December where again arrested in Puno in connection with a series of terrorist attacks and crimes in the south of the country. The individuals were identified as Victor Guzman Villafuerte, 28, alias Comrade Marco; and Hilda Ore Quintanilla, 25, alias Comrade Pilar. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Oct 91 p A12)

According to home and shop owners around the Miguel Castro Castro prison in Canto Grande, Shining Path elements are collecting contributions in food, medicines, and money from people in the area. Neighbors say that the Shining Path is conducting a door-to-door census under death threats in the area around the prison where terrorists are serving their sentences. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 17 Oct 91 p A8)

Peasants arriving from Razuhuillca have said that Shining Path columns have been seen approaching Huanta. They added that Macachacra peasant patrols discovered heavily armed Shining Path columns coming from Acosvinchos, Pacaysaca, and Huamanguilla and called in the military who attacked the columns with armored helicopters near Razuhuillca. Some 100 casualties were inflicted. Witnesses have said that the terrorists withdrew their dead. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 19 Oct 91 p 8,9)

A peasant patrol unit has captured two members of a Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement's terrorist cell in Ancon, Quimbiri District, on the right margin of the Apurimac River. The terrorists were not identified but were placed at the disposal of the zone's political military command. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 20 Oct 91 p A12)

The Intelligence Service captured two criminals who have been tracking and interfering with radio transmissions from military planes in Ucayali. The Interior Ministry reported that the criminals provided the secret information that they gathered to narcoterrorists in Tocache, Campanilla, San Francisco, and Aguaytia, in the Alto Huallaga region. The individuals were identified as the brothers Julio Abel and Tito Valle Ruiz who operated from a building just 400 meters from the Captain Daniel Abenzur International Airport. Police officers seized a modern powerful T-R-ICOM radio transmitter-tracker that they used. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Oct 91 p 4)

Uruguay

Economy Minister Confirms IMF Director's Visit

PY2510125491 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Economy and Finance Minister Enrique Braga has reported that IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus will visit the country on 26 November—as was announced by El Espectador yesterday—and that the country will be closing a new agreement with the IMF by that date.

Meanwhile, an Inter-American Development Bank source said that President Luis Alberto Lacalle and U.S. President George Bush will meet in Washington during a business forum on development of the private sector in America between 5 and 6 December. [passage omitted]

Government Prepares Bidding for Gas Pipeline

PY2510140491 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] The gas pipeline that will supply our country with Argentine natural gas could be operational in two years. The executive branch has issued a resolution entrusting the National Administration of Fuels, Alcohol, and Portland Cement, ANCAP, to prepare the documents establishing the bases and conditions for an international public bidding for building a pipeline linking an Argentine source with Montevideo under the regime of public works.

The document will establish—among other things—a maximum period of 24 months to build the pipeline and a 20-year exploitation concession. At the end of this period, the pipeline will become state property.

The executive branch also recommended that ANCAP be entrusted with supervising the work and importing gas to supply the country's demands. ANCAP also will be required to invite transport companies, distributors, or large consumers, to present their offers when preparing the documents for importing natural gas in order to ensure better conditions and prices.

ANCAP will submit the bidding documents for approval by the executive branch in a period no longer than 30 days from notification of this resolution.

Industry and Energy Minister Augusto Montesdeoca has said that the bidding document could be ready by December and that the port for the pipeline's entry will not be known until then. There are two possibilities: the first is through Paysandu and the second through Colonia, in southern Uruguay.

Resumption of Mutton Sales to Iraq Sought

PY2610111691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1911 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Montevideo, 25 Oct (EFE)—The Montevideo press reports today that Uruguay is negotiating with Iraq for the resumption of the sale of mutton after the Persian Gulf war, and it is evaluating the possibility of opening a diplomatic office in Baghdad.

The opening of a diplomatic mission will occur "as soon as the situation returns to normal in Iraq and after the

United Nations finishes its task of verification that is related to the recent Gulf conflict," official spokesmen stressed.

During the past few years, Iraq was one of the main purchasers of Uruguayan mutton. In 1989 its purchases amounted to $23 million, and in 1990 sales fell to $10.1 million.

Uruguay has submitted an appeal to the United Nations requesting that it be compensated for the losses in its exports when it approved the blockade that had been ordered against Iraq.

New Political Party Created, Seeks Recognition

PY2510220191 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 17 Oct 91 p 15

[Excerpt] Homero Mieres and his wife Mabel Portillo preside over the newly-created Federal and Pacifist Party of the Sun [Partido del Sol, Federal y Pacifista], which on 2 October asked to be recognized by the Electoral Court. [passage omitted]

Guyana

OAS, Caricom Discuss Haiti Sanctions

FL2410151391 Bridgetown CANA in English 1241 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 24, CANA—An Organisation of American States (OAS) delegation, led by Assistant Secretary-General Christopher Thomas, spent Wednesday holding talks with officials of the Guyana Government and the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat on OAS-approved sanctions against Haiti.

The OAS has proposed an economic embargo against Haiti as part of an effort to force the newly installed military-backed government to surrender power and allow the return of deposed President Jean- Bertrand Aristide.

"I am here to consult with the Government of Guyana and the Secretariat of Caricom on the implementation of the recent resolutions of the OAS on the question of Haiti," Thomas, a Trinidad and Tobago-born diplomat, told CANA. "I expect in the first instance to have the assurance from the Government of Guyana that the resolutions would be complied with in every instance. I expect also to consult with them and have some understanding as to development of a civilian mission that will ultimately go into Haiti to ensure that democracy is restored," Thomas added.

Carter Center Notes 'Remarkable' Progress

FL2510174991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1209 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 25, CANA—Guyana has made remarkable progress in electoral reforms since former United States President Jimmy Carter led an observer delegation to Georgetown, an official of the Centre has said.

"Since that time, there has been in fact remarkable progress in an opening of the electoral process," Dr. Robert Pastor, executive secretary of the Council of Freely-Elected Heads of Government, told reporters.

Carter visited Guyana last year and encouraged the government to reform the electoral process. The Carter Center, based in Atlanta, has dispatched a delegation, led by former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo, to look at developments related to the electoral process. It arrived at a time of opposition criticism of the progress of electoral reforms and the prospects for a free and fair election here.

"Obviously, that process is not complete, but as compares to what we encountered one year ago, I think we agree that important steps had been taken," Pastor said. Pastor said that President Desmond Hoyte and Rudy Collins, Elections Commission chairman, had agreed that a good voters list was a "crucial prerequisite" for good, fair, and transparent elections.

"The principle question that we hope to address, as President Carazo has said, is to the procedures for assessing the claims and objections to that list, to make sure that it is a good list and how much time it will take the Elections Commission to be able to prepare that final list which will represent all these claims and objections," he told newsmen.

Opposition politicians say the list is riffled with inaccuracies.